

SENATE RESOLUTION 135

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the International Storytelling Center on forty years of storytelling in Jonesborough.

WHEREAS, the art of storytelling plays a highly important role in our society, as it is central to such meaningful human experiences as communicating, educating, learning, creating, healing, preserving heritage, preaching, and entertaining; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is a state with a rich history in the art of storytelling that has given rise to annual celebrations of the art in Jonesborough, proudly recognized as the Mecca of storytelling and home to the International Storytelling Center; and

WHEREAS, on a warm October day in 1973, in that east Tennessee town in the heart of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, a local journalism teacher and his neighbors rolled an old farm wagon into Courthouse Square, gathered around that wagon and told stories; and

WHEREAS, that October day marked the beginning of the National Storytelling Festival, and unbeknownst to the town's good people, then began a transformation of quaint and quiet Jonesborough into the Storytelling Capitol of the World; and

WHEREAS, recognized as the world's first public event devoted exclusively to storytelling, the Festival ignited a renaissance of the art that has since spread throughout America and around the world; and

WHEREAS, two years following the first Festival, the institution that would become the International Storytelling Center was founded. It has been propelling the growing cultural movement of storytelling for almost forty years, and it has advanced the powers and possibilities of learned storytelling by young and old alike; and

WHEREAS, indeed, storytelling can not directly feed the hungry, house the homeless, or cure the sick, however, within each human being is the capacity to tap into their own stories and communicate creatively to teach, persuade, entertain, and visualize the future; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the Internatinoal Storytelling Center is a better life and a better world through the power of storytelling, and the organization advocates for the art of storytelling and providing people across the world with the knowledge, opportunities, and tools to experience the contemporary applications of this longstanding tradition; and

WHEREAS, guided by a mission to empower people everywhere to discover and enjoy storytelling, the International Storytelling Center is the hub for the world where tellers and listeners alike are invited to celebrate our personal, community, and cultural heritage through precious preservation of our stories and lore; and

WHEREAS, on October 5 – 7 of this year, the International Storytelling Center and Jonesborough community are celebrating their fortieth year of the National Storytelling Festival which is, indeed, the acclaimed event that launched the storytelling renaissance and crowned Jonesborough, the Storytelling Capitol of the World; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby join Jonesborough and the International Storytelling Center in the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Center and of the National Storytelling Festival, and we appreciate the historic value and cultural significance they bring to bear on the art of storytelling within our society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.