

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 505

By Norris

A RESOLUTION relative to the placement of an appropriate monument in the State Capitol building to honor legendary Tennessean David Crockett.

WHEREAS, David Crockett is of one of Tennessee's most notable native sons, in large part due to his legendary volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, David Crockett is revered as a pioneer, frontiersman, public servant, statesman, backwoods orator, and, most of all, a man of the people, and he will always be remembered as an heroic participant in the Battle of the Alamo, in which he made the ultimate sacrifice of his life to preserve the independence of the Republic of Texas; and

WHEREAS, recognized and idolized as a true Renaissance man, David Crockett engaged in a variety of occupations over his lifetime, including farming, trapping, hunting, milling, distilling, and political and military activities; and

WHEREAS, born in Greene County on August 17, 1786, David Crockett moved several times throughout his life; while living in Tennessee, he was also domiciled in Jefferson County, Lincoln County, Franklin County, Lawrence County, and Gibson County; and

WHEREAS, his record of volunteerism is lengthy and quite impressive: from 1813-15, he volunteered his services to fight in the Creek Indian Wars, a part of the War of 1812, entering the war as a private and coming home as a fourth sergeant in the Tennessee Volunteer Mounted Riflemen; and

WHEREAS, from 1817-20, he served as a magistrate of, and a member of the town council in, Lawrenceburg, and was elected to be a colonel in the 57th Militia Regiment of Lawrence County; and

WHEREAS, David Crockett was then elected to the Tennessee State Legislature, where he astutely represented Lawrence and Hickman counties; he was subsequently reelected in 1823, but lost the 1825 election; and

WHEREAS, in 1827, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives to represent the northwestern district of Tennessee; he earned his bid for reelection in 1829, was defeated in 1831, but came back to be reelected in 1833, prior to his second unsuccessful bid for Congress in 1835; and

WHEREAS, it was after his final bid for Congress that he set out on his western journey and ultimate destination of Texas, and thus helped to secure Texas' independence from Mexico; it was on March 6, 1836, that he made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom at the Battle of the Alamo; and

WHEREAS, since David Crockett's death, many Tennesseans have followed his example; in every major war, Tennessee has led the way in the number of volunteers who have stepped forward to serve their country; and

WHEREAS, because of his iconic stature throughout the world and his varied and productive life that has come to personify the Volunteer State, it is most appropriate that David Crockett should be memorialized by his home state, the great State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the State Capitol Commission is hereby requested to initiate the creation and placement of a monument to honor and commemorate legendary Tennessean, David Crockett.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Capitol Commission may request the Tennessee Arts Commission to sponsor a contest, which will be open to all interested artists, to select such a monument to honor David Crockett.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the monument should preferably be a bust bearing the likeness of David Crockett, and should be comparable in size to those busts currently on display in the State Capitol building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Capitol Commission and the Tennessee Arts Commission shall be responsible for selecting the appropriate submission for such contest and determining the final choice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the selected monument shall be funded by specific state appropriation, and shall be placed and displayed on the second floor of the State Capitol building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Capitol Commission is also authorized to seek private donations to cover the cost of the monument and related expenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to both the State Capitol Commission and the Tennessee Arts Commission.