

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

By Halford

A RESOLUTION to honor the legacy of the late Senator Mildred Jolly Lashlee, the first female to win election to the Tennessee State Senate.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to honor the enduring legacy of one of this State's finest public servants, the late Senator Mildred Louella Jolly Lashlee of Carroll County; and

WHEREAS, a member of a distinguished political family with deep roots, Mildred Jolly Lashlee became the first woman elected to the Tennessee Senate in November 1944; and

WHEREAS, she had been representing the 26th Senate District since July of 1944, when she was appointed to fill the remainder of her late husband's first term in the Senate, Senator John Wyly Lashlee having passed away on July 9, 1944; and

WHEREAS, she then qualified for the seat without opposition in place of her late husband and was elected to the 74th General Assembly to ably represent the citizens of Benton, Decatur, Hardeman, Hardin, and McNairy counties, which comprised the 26th Senate District; and

WHEREAS, Mildred Jolly Lashlee's husband was a cousin of the late Governor Frank Clement, and his father, O.P. Lashlee, grandfather, great-great-uncle, and numerous other ancestors served in elected county and state offices; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lashlee also gave birth to another generation of Lashlee public servants; her elder son, John W. Lashlee, II, served as a Metro Nashville Councilman and Davidson County Criminal Court Clerk, and her younger son, Frank Priestley Lashlee, served eighteen years combined in the Senate and House of Representatives of the Tennessee General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, serving in the Senate from 1945-1947, Senator Mildred Jolly Lashlee helped lead Tennessee from war back to peace, and she was the first woman in the State's history to serve on the Senate Finance Committee; and

WHEREAS, born on April 24, 1906, in Carroll County, Tennessee, Senator Mildred Jolly Lashlee was the daughter of Sheriff John Frank Jolly and Lydia Warbritton Jolly; after attending Columbia College of Dramatic Arts and the Chicago Conservatory of Music, she taught music and dramatic arts at the high school level in Bruceton and Camden; and

WHEREAS, after marrying John Wyly Lashlee on December 28, 1925, she helped her husband with the family's livestock and farming operations and ferry service on the Tennessee River; and

WHEREAS, active in her community, Senator Lashlee served as Chair of the American Cancer Society County Fundraising organization and was a faithful member of the Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Senator Mildred Jolly Lashlee served as Governor Frank Clement's oratory and grammar coach for his address to the 1956 Democratic National Convention; she was active in politics, in addition to her legislative service, and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1960; and

WHEREAS, after she completed her tenure in the Tennessee Senate, she served as Chief Personnel Interviewer for the Tennessee Department of Employment Security until her passing in 1966; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that the members of this General Assembly specially recognize the remarkable contributions of this female pioneer and true Tennessee treasure; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory and celebrate the bountiful life of Senator Mildred

Louella Jolly Lashlee, fondly recalling her distinction as the first woman elected to the Tennessee Senate and her legacy of effective public service.

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