

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 214

By Turner

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Iyonia Boyce upon being named State Honoree for the 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly salute those young citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as emerging community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Iyonia Boyce of Memphis, an eighth-grader at Collierville Middle School, has been selected as one of two State Honorees of the 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious award was created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in an effort to emphasize the importance that our great Nation places on service to others and to encourage all young Americans to contribute to their communities; and

WHEREAS, realizing the importance of community service after volunteering for the March of Dimes and learning about medical issues that premature babies face, Iyonia Boyce founded a mentoring group that volunteers for numerous charities and conducts activities to combat bullying. In 2009, Iyonia formed "Little Divas in Training" to encourage other students to volunteer, and the group has raised funds and collected donated items worth more than \$20,000 for organizations such as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Girls Inc.; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the group works to prevent bullying, which Iyonia experienced as a fourth-grader. She has made presentations to more than 4,500 students to identify and manage bullying situations, including performing interactive exercises to foster the

understanding of victims' feelings. She has taken her anti-bullying message to the media and is involved in a bullying-prevention group at her school; and

WHEREAS, Little Divas in Training hosted an anti-bullying workshop, a teen dating and domestic violence brunch, and a pageant to instill confidence in girls who have been bullied. In addition, the group collected more than 100 dresses for girls who could not purchase their own homecoming or prom dresses; and

WHEREAS, driven by her passion to make a difference, Iyonia said, "I want to show my peers that you can do anything if you believe in yourself and work hard"; and

WHEREAS, as a State Honoree, Miss Boyce will receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion, and a trip to Washington, D.C., for a series of national recognition events; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Iyonia Boyce, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; 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 hereby congratulate and honor Iyonia Boyce as a State Honoree of the 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Award, recognizing her outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership, and community spirit, and extending to her our best wishes for her continued success and happiness.

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