

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 350

By Byrd

A RESOLUTION recognizing the 2015 Hunting for a Cure Youth Turkey Hunt event.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize our State's premier institutions of health, welfare, and education that have served to enhance the well-being of persons from around the globe; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis is one such premier institution, which delivers cutting-edge medical care to children while simultaneously providing the most current medical research in the world to find cures for life-threatening diseases; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude is highly dependent on benevolence and philanthropy to support the cost of uncompensated patient care and research, and one of its most outstanding benefactors is Hunting for a Cure (HFAC), which held its eleventh annual HFAC Youth Turkey Hunt on March 27–29, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the fundraising brainchild of Barney Davison and his son, Mike, of Savannah, HFAC started in 2005 when the duo devised a plan that combined their desire to support St. Jude with their love of turkey hunting. Simply put, juveniles are invited to hunt turkey, for which they are asked to collect monetary donations, of which 100 percent is given to St. Jude in the ceremonial climax of the weekend event; and

WHEREAS, driven by a mission to introduce children to the joys of hunting and the outdoors, the Davisons and their cadre of volunteers which includes landowners, guides, and others from the community have staged this event each year for more than a decade, and many young people have a greater appreciation of God's blessings of health, family, friends, and the pursuit of the wild turkey in their lives because of this event; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the actual hunting experience, other celebratory activities abound at the Hardin County Fairgrounds during the weekend event, where food, vendor booths, exhibits, and a live auction are available and taking place; and

WHEREAS, by all accounts, HFAC Youth Turkey Hunt has been a successful endeavor, growing exponentially in participation and support of the event with each passing year. Year one involved a few children who brought in donations of \$2,000; in 2014, \$105,872 was donated, which raised the ten-year total to an incredible \$739,782; and

WHEREAS, the ingenuity and drive to help others that Barney and Mike Davison have shown in the design and successful implementation of the annual HFAC Youth Turkey Hunt are honorable, worthy of acclaim, and in keeping with the values and desires of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause to consider the benevolent spirits of the HFAC founders, the life lessons that each year's youth hunters have learned from their experiences, the monetary proceeds that flow into St. Jude's coffers, and the relentless quest of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to discover cures for childhood diseases; 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 recognize and applaud Barney and Mike Davison on their annual Hunting for a Cure Youth Turkey Hunt fundraising event for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and we extend our best wishes to them for ever-growing success for many years to come.

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