

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 420

By Weaver

A RESOLUTION recognizing founder Bill King Reece upon the tenth anniversary of the Smith County After School Theatre Company.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize those Tennesseans who apply their talents and expertise to endeavors that encourage the well-being and artistic opportunities of our young citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable Tennessean is Bill King Reece, a native of Carthage who, since 1994, has taught visual arts to students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve in the Smith County School System; and

WHEREAS, Bill Reece is the founder and director of the Smith County After School Theatre Company, which, after ten exciting and successful years, will perform its final production, *The Music Man*, this spring; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reece, the youngest son of the late Matthew McDonald and Oma Belle Franklin Reece, realized his profound love of the arts at the age of four. He attended Carthage Elementary School, graduated from Smith County High School in 1968, and matriculated to East Tennessee State University, where, in 1974, he earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts; and

WHEREAS, he returned to Smith County and spent almost two decades working in the arts and theatre community before returning to the classroom at Middle Tennessee State University, pursuing studies that would enable him to become an elementary and secondary teacher; and

WHEREAS, his teaching career has been exemplary, and he has been duly recognized for his excellence. In 1999, he was named the Walmart Teacher of the Year, and he earned

Smith County Teacher of the Year accolades for grades five through eight in school years 2000–2001 and 2007–2008; and

WHEREAS, combining his passion for theatre and his commitment to the young people of Smith County, Mr. Reece launched the Smith County After School Theatre Company in 2005; and

WHEREAS, during the ten ensuing years, Mr. Reece and his cast members have brought to the Smith County Auditorium stage ten Broadway shows: *The Sound of Music*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Annie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cinderella*, *Grease*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Oklahoma!*, and *The Music Man*; and

WHEREAS, throughout his years of teaching, Bill Reece has promoted the arts in schools and built a lasting legacy that will motivate others to engage in the support of artistic endeavors in their community; and

WHEREAS, Bill Reece epitomizes the Tennessean who is wholly committed to the well being and artistic exposure of our young citizens during the years of their primary and secondary education, and he should be duly recognized for the positive impact he has had on those students and his community; 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 Bill King Reece as an outstanding educator, commend him on the tenth anniversary of the Smith County After School Theatre Company he founded and directs, and extend to him our best wishes for success in all of his future endeavors.

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