

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 444

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to recognize the attendants of the Eighth
Biannual John Billy Driver Family Reunion.

WHEREAS, the family is the basic building block that shapes our society, and the lives of family members, filled with work and play, love and laughter, illness and health, grief and disappointment, and success and achievement, shape the course of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the history of our State and nation is woven from the countless threads of the histories of families, and these family chronicles are worthy of our appreciation; and

WHEREAS, between August 7 and August 9, 2015, the members of the Eighth Biannual John Billy Driver Family Reunion will gather in Memphis to enjoy fellowship and fun and celebrate their storied history again; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable family's recorded history began with John Billy Driver, who was born in or around 1813 in the East Tennessee area; he settled in the Caswell, Mississippi, community, presently known as the Etta community; and

WHEREAS, the John Billy Driver family has a rich and illustrious history that is carefully detailed to preserve historical events; and

WHEREAS, the estimable historians who work assiduously to trace and record their family's various historical events so that present and future generations may have the privilege of knowing from where they came are Nettie Mason-Coker, William and Mattie Woods Bruce, Annie Driver Williams, Maudie Barry Dee, Guessie Chatman McJunkins, Anna Lou Houston Tinele, David Marzette, R. I. (Kit) Williams, and Nancy Owens Marzette; and

WHEREAS, the deceased historians of this family include Myrtis Driver Barry, Octavia Driver Holland, Minnie Kirkwood Driver, Ambrose Driver, Marcus Marzette, Bill Brown, Percy

Marzette, Minnie Houston Mason, Mary Johnson Holland, Anna Lou Tinele, and Nancy Owens Marzette; and

WHEREAS, during the last years of slavery, John Billy Driver and Eliza Pye Driver had four children, West, Maggie, Tobe, and Tom. West, the oldest, was fathered by Colonel Driver, a white slave master. Prior to the union between John Billy Driver and Eliza Pye Driver, Eliza Pye had three other children, Henry, Alice, and John, whose last name were Cumby; and

WHEREAS, the union between John Billy Driver and Eliza Pye Driver ended prior to the abolition of slavery. No other marriage is known for Eliza Pye Driver, who lived to be eighty years old and died in 1907, in Lafayette County, Mississippi; she had been living with her daughter, Maggie, and son-in-law, Tom Marzette Sr.; and

WHEREAS, after Eliza Pye Driver, John Billy Driver married Rebecca Jane Barry, a union that produced five children, Anderson, Lifous, Annie, Patsy, and Cordova; in addition, Tobe and Tom were reared in this same household; and

WHEREAS, these unions between John Billy Driver and Eliza Pye Driver and John Billy Driver and Rebecca Jane Barry marked the beginning of this proud family's first and second generations; and

WHEREAS, West Driver married Mary Jones and had three children, Tony, Alice, and Molly; and

WHEREAS, on August 14, 1879, Henry Cumby married Mat Massey, and this union produced Thomas (Tom) and a number of other children whose names are unknown; and

WHEREAS, Alice Cumby married Levi Patterson on March 20, 1879; and

WHEREAS, Tobe Driver married Josephine Wilson on August 13, 1882, and their union produced six children, Henry, Andrew, Van, Ale, Icy, and Pearlie; and

WHEREAS, on August 5, 1875, Maggie Driver married Tom Marzette, and they had eleven children, Johnny, Jim, Betsie, Luke, Lula Pearlie, Mattie, Thomas, Barbara, William, Henry, and Marcus; and

WHEREAS, Thomas (Tom) Driver married Nancy Dunn on January 20, 1887, and they had eleven children, John Abraham (Abe), Owen, Thomas Jr., Lydia, Willie Lonie, Mary, Totsy, Myrtis, Octavia, Maggie, and Josephine; and

WHEREAS, Lifous Driver married Ella V. Jones on April 13, 1888, and they had nine children, Coot, Douglas, Roy, Ambrose, Kermit, Bertha, Ella Rebecca, Pearlie, and Clara Farmer; and

WHEREAS, Annie Driver married Giles Houston on February 13, 1901, and they had two daughters, Gara and Viola; and

WHEREAS, Patsy Driver married Jabe Houston on December 7, 1899, and they had ten children, James, J. B., Ralph, Cliff, Hulet, Annie Lou, Cara Lee, Olivia, Minnie Bell, and Ocrine; and

WHEREAS, Anderson Driver married Mary Anderson, and their union produced Beatrice; and

WHEREAS, Cordova Driver married Lige Brown on November 25, 1901, and they had four children, Joe Eddie (Bill) Thomas, John, L. G., and Dee; and

WHEREAS, oral history has it that Tobe and Thomas (Tom) were twins who both fought in the Civil War, and that Tobe was killed fighting for his freedom; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, Henry Driver, the son of Tobe, was located in Hughes, Arkansas, and is the grandfather of our very own colleague, Representative Karen D. Camper; and

WHEREAS, it is evident that the John Billy Driver family has deep, well-established roots in the Volunteer State, and we take great pleasure in joining in their celebration of family pride; and

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are also pleased to recognize the many descendants of this strong and vital family from our State, including Representative Camper, as they gather to remember their triumphs and accomplishments, recall various historical events in their family, and exchange news of current affairs; 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 attendants of the Eighth Biannual John Billy Driver Family

Reunion and wish them a wonderful time together as they renew family connections and revisit their wonderful shared family history and memories.

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