

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 499

By Jernigan

A RESOLUTION to designate March 4, 2016, as "Tennessee Missing Children's Day".

WHEREAS, between 1979 and 1981, a series of high-profile missing children cases and murders of children and young adults brought attention to the lack of coordinated efforts among Federal, State, and local law enforcement to search for missing children; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the Missing Children Act (Public Law 97-292, 96 Stat. 1259) was enacted, allowing information on missing children to be entered into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children was created to partner with the Department of Justice and help law enforcement find missing children, eliminate child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimization; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Center, approximately 800,000 children are reported missing each year; and

WHEREAS, of these cases, more than 200,000 are victims of family abductions, and an estimated 58,000 are victims of nonfamily abductions; and

WHEREAS, annually, an estimated 115 children are victims of kidnappings in which the perpetrator is a stranger or slight acquaintance and involve a child being placed in grave danger; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has assisted law enforcement in the recovery of more than 193,000 missing children since being founded in 1984. The agency's recovery rate has grown from 62 percent in 1990 to more than 96 percent of domestically missing children as of 2015, but too many children still remain among the missing; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that this body establish a special day to remember those children who are missing and give hope to their families; 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 designate March 4, 2016, as "Tennessee Missing Children's Day" and urge the participation of local government, law enforcement, schools, community-based organizations, and every Tennessean in the protection and education of all individuals about child abduction and sexual exploitation, appropriate protective measures, and ways to respond and seek help from law enforcement, social services, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

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