

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 752

By Halford

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the citizens of the City of Milan upon the celebration of the municipality's 150th anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those estimable cities in Tennessee that are celebrating significant milestones in their history; and

WHEREAS, one such notable municipality is the City of Milan, which was incorporated on February 15, 1866, and is celebrating its sesquicentennial this year; and

WHEREAS, granted a charter on that date by the General Assembly, Milan was originally governed by its Mayor and Board of Aldermen and the rule of law was enforced by its Constable; and

WHEREAS, John G. Shepherd, owner of an early grocery store, was Milan's first mayor, and today, B.W. Beasley holds that important office; and

WHEREAS, the oldest published history of Milan notes: "Milan, a town of about 1,800 inhabitants is situated at the junction of the Memphis & Louisville and the Illinois Central Railroad. It was established ... upon lands owned by B. A. Williamson and John Sanford"; and

WHEREAS, Milan did not attain great prominence prior to the Civil War, but afterwards the community began to grow rapidly, and in 1873 the completion of the Illinois Central Railroad enhanced its importance as a commercial point; and

WHEREAS, in 1874, E. A. Collins founded a private bank in Milan, "which has proved of great value to the business interests of the town and surrounding country"; and

WHEREAS, in March 1874, W.A. Wade established *The Milan Exchange*, an eight-column folio, which continues to inform, educate, and entertain the citizens of Milan today as *The Mirror-Exchange*; and

WHEREAS, the origins of Milan's name have been disputed over time; a history published in the 1800s stated: "Milan, a flourishing railroad town, was ... named for Milan, Italy"; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 1905, *The Milan Exchange* denied that theory: "The town's name, Milan, was not taken from the city in Italy, but originated in merely an expression by B.A. Williamson, who owned the land on which the town is built. Being asked by a railroad official one day whose land this was, he replied, 'My Land.' Combining the words, the town was named Milan"; and

WHEREAS, whatever the origins of its name, Milan is notable today, 150 years after its founding, as one of the finest and friendliest cities in West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to grasp this golden opportunity to honor and commend the City of Milan and its citizens; 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 City of Milan and its citizens, both past and present, upon the celebration of the municipality's 150th anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success and happiness in the future.

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