

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 892

By Matheny

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the 220th anniversary of the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, more than four centuries ago, Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto looked out over the Mississippi River and sought to explore the lush forests and grasslands that would become Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, hunting, fishing, and good growing conditions had seen many Native American tribes such as the Cherokee, Shawnee, Creek, Chickasaw, and Choctaw make their homes in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as colonies and towns were being established along the Eastern seaboard, hearty pioneers blazed trails into what would become Tennessee, settling in the Watauga area, founding the town of Jonesborough; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 1796, President George Washington signed the bill that made the area south of the Ohio River the sixteenth state of the Union, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, derived from the Cherokee name Tanasi, meaning River of Great Bend, Tennessee was the last state to join the United States of America in her formative century; and

WHEREAS, in the nation's first 100 years, Tennessee led the way in the areas of leadership, bravery, and perseverance as the home of three U.S. Presidents, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson, each of whom proudly served and honorably led this country; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans demonstrated patriotism and fortitude when we sent more than our quota of volunteers to assist in our nation's defense effort in both the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, thus earning our State the proud sobriquet, "The Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans have always played significant roles in the battles of our great nation as tales of bravery and heroism have been written about the lives of such Tennessee and American heroes as Davy Crockett, Sam Houston, and Sergeant Alvin C. York; and

WHEREAS, the last state to secede from the Union, Tennessee saw brother fight brother during the Civil War as the state was home to more Civil War battles than any other state except Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the first state to rejoin the Union upon the cessation of the war, Tennessee resumed her tremendous growth as commerce, industry, and agriculture rapidly developed; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 1897, Tennessee took time to reflect on what she had achieved during her first 100 years and looked forward to continuing development over the following centuries; and

WHEREAS, in the subsequent 120 years, Tennessee has led the nation in numerous social, technological, and cultural advances; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has been a progressive leader in various social issues, including the Civil Rights Movement and Women's Suffrage, as Tennessee was the deciding thirty-sixth state to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment giving American women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Oak Ridge National Laboratories in the 1940s earned Tennessee recognition as a pioneer in the field of nuclear energy; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has played an instrumental role in the growth and development of American popular music as Memphis is the birthplace and cradle of the blues and a quality purveyor of rhythm and blues, jazz, and rock and roll music; Nashville is renowned around the world as Music City U.S.A. and the home of country music and the Grand Ole Opry; and the hills of East Tennessee have been a seminal influence in Appalachian folk music, including the traditional form of bluegrass, and the roots of country music; and

WHEREAS, June 1, 2016, marks Tennessee's 220th anniversary and reminds us that "Now we're standing on the shoulders of those who gave their all, two hundred years of

volunteers standing tall. We love our independent ways and we love being free, but we all come together when it comes to Tennessee."; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the General Assembly take time to reflect on the proud heritage and many accomplishments of our great state on this historic anniversary; 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 commemorate the 220th anniversary of the founding of our beloved State of Tennessee as we proudly reflect upon our rich heritage and our boundless potential for the next 220 years.

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