

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 900

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Ms. Flonnie Webb Stephens on the celebration of her 107<sup>th</sup> birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Flonnie Webb Stephens will be celebrating her 107<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 22, 2016, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, born in a log house in Scott County, Ms. Stephens was a woman of modest beginnings and met every challenge in her life with a tenacity she still carries with her to this day; and

WHEREAS, described as beautiful, kind, and good at math, Flonnie Stephens started building her character early on when she studied by lantern or fireplace light as a young girl and walked five miles or more on muddy roads in the bitter cold of winter to a one-room schoolhouse; she continued this ritual for five years, changing the rhythm only when she began attending Oneida High School; and

WHEREAS, despite these challenges, Ms. Stephens had perfect attendance throughout her four years of high school and was named the valedictorian of Oneida High School's Class of 1929. She is Tennessee's oldest living high school graduate and one of its most enduring citizens; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to hardship, Flonnie Stephens was widowed twice; however, she still managed to raise four successful girls and serve as a role model for old and young alike in the Oneida community; and

WHEREAS, imbued with perpetual vitality and a strong love of life, Ms. Stephens, otherwise known as "Memshaw" by family members, weighs less than 100 pounds and stands at

just four feet and ten inches tall. Regardless, her physicality has done little to deter her, and, until her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday, she was able to live alone, drive, mow her lawn, garden, and can; and

WHEREAS, even as she approaches her 107<sup>th</sup> year, Flonnie Stephens still votes in elections, signs her own checks, keeps up with TV news, and loves to read humorous writings; and

WHEREAS, in honor of her stalwart commitment to life, Ms. Stephens even received a letter from the President, recognizing her many years of lived experience; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; 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 honor and congratulate Flonnie Webb Stephens on the celebration of her 107<sup>th</sup> birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

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