

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 972

By Powell

A RESOLUTION to honor the new Tennessee State Museum and the Tennessee Fox Trot Carousel.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee State Museum was established by the General Assembly in 1937 and was originally housed in the War Memorial Building before moving to its present location in the Polk Center on Deaderick Street in 1981; and

WHEREAS, a new \$160 million, 137,000-square-foot facility for the Tennessee State Museum has been designed and will be constructed on the southeast corner of Jefferson Street and Rosa Parks Boulevard on just under seven acres that flank the Bicentennial Mall; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2016, the Metro Development and Housing Agency unanimously approved the conceptual plan for the new Tennessee State Museum, a move that could allow the return of the Tennessee Fox Trot Carousel; and

WHEREAS, designed by the renowned artist and native Nashvillian Red Grooms, the wonderful Tennessee Fox Trot Carousel represents various time periods and cultural facets of Tennessee life and features caricatures of thirty-six figures from Tennessee history, including Andrew Jackson, Chet Atkins, Uncle Dave Macon, William Strickland, and Wilma Rudolph; and

WHEREAS, enjoyed by both the young and old, the Tennessee Fox Trot Carousel was originally installed in Riverfront Park in 1998, but due to climate-related damage, it was dismantled and placed in storage in 2005 with the state museum having control since that time; and

WHEREAS, under the preliminary plans for the new Tennessee State Museum, state officials told the Metro Development and Housing Agency committee that a green space could front Jefferson Street and outdoor sculptures could be included along with a great lawn with a water feature; and

WHEREAS, although the inclusion of the Tennessee Fox Trot Carousel is in the very preliminary stage and will need funding, the placement of the carousel next to the new home of the Tennessee State Museum would be the most appropriate location to share and showcase this true Tennessee treasure; 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 new Tennessee State Museum as construction begins on this new facility and applaud the effort to add the Tennessee Fox Trot Carousel to what will truly be a tremendous display of the history and heritage of the State of Tennessee.

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