

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 423

By Niceley

A RESOLUTION to recognize John Harding Peach's biographical novel *Thomas Jefferson: Roots of Religious Freedom* for its contribution to Tennessee heritage.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee recognize the contributions of its citizens who are scholars and authors; and

WHEREAS, John Harding Peach's biographical novel *Thomas Jefferson: Roots of Religious Freedom* represents a notable contribution to the historical heritage of this nation and state; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peach's work seeks to depict how Thomas Jefferson came to cultivate the values that enabled him to serve his country as the primary author of The Declaration of Independence and the third President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, *Thomas Jefferson: Roots of Religious Freedom* pays particular attention to the theme of religious freedom for which Thomas Jefferson and the United States of America are renowned; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peach admirably illuminates the personal faith of Thomas Jefferson as the basis for his steadfast commitment to religious liberty; and

WHEREAS, John Peach's expertise in genealogy and biography was used to great effect in order to deepen the historical accuracy of the book's portrayal of Thomas Jefferson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peach was born in Nashville, Tennessee, and has resided in Knoxville, Tennessee, for the past twenty years; and

WHEREAS, John Peach used his experience as a pastor and genealogist to bring a fresh perspective to one of America's foremost founders; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peach's effort to examine the life of Thomas Jefferson and his tremendous commitment to the invaluable right to religious liberty should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and extol the book *Thomas Jefferson: Roots of Religious Freedom* and its author, John Harding Peach, for a thoughtful contribution to the history of the United States of America and Tennessee through an examination of the life of Thomas Jefferson and his commitment to religious freedom.

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