

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 524

By Norris

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Mid South Eye Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc., on the occasion of its seventieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly honor the Mid South Eye Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc., upon its seventieth anniversary of facilitating the donation of corneal tissue and eyes for the purposes of transplantation and education; and

WHEREAS, the Mid South Eye Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc., originally the Memphis Eye Bank for Sight Restoration, was organized in 1945 and chartered in September 1946; and

WHEREAS, the Robert George Circle of the Business and Professional Women of the First Congregational Church sponsored the organization after reading about eye donation and the work of the Eye Bank for Sight Restoration in New York; and

WHEREAS, determined to bring an eye bank to Memphis, the women succeeded in their endeavor, and, today, the Mid South Eye Bank is the second oldest surviving eye bank in the nation, second only to the Eye Bank for Sight Restoration in New York City; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, the Mid South Eye Bank raised and paid the required \$150 fee to become a member of the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), the accrediting body for eye banks; and

WHEREAS, a team of professionals with extensive experience in eye banking or corneal transplantation conducts site inspections of eye banks at least once every three years to evaluate adherence to EBAA medical standards and procedures; and

WHEREAS, EBAA accreditation meets or exceeds most state and national regulations and engenders public confidence in eye banking; Mid South Eye Bank has remained accredited since joining the EBAA in 1969; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the Mid South Eye Bank falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which inspects the eye bank every three years; and

WHEREAS, the Mid South Eye Bank recovers corneal tissue under the Uniformed Anatomical Gift Act and provides sight-saving tissue for approximately 300 surgeries per year; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the month of March as "Eye Donor Awareness Month," and, every year since then, the Mid South Eye Bank has celebrated this proclamation to help educate the public on the gift of cornea donation; 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 recognize the Mid South Eye Bank on its seventieth anniversary and thank the organization for its altruistic endeavors to restore the gift of sight.

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