

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 575

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the unveiling and dedication of the Sam Houston statue in Maryville.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to one of the most significant figures in the history of Tennessee, Texas, and the United States of America, Sam Houston, an independent thinker and iconoclast who made his mark as a soldier, lawyer, politician, revolutionary, and statesman; and

WHEREAS, a man of great honor, Sam Houston was “uniquely American, the original Texan, as well as the embodiment of East Tennesseans: clever, tough and unapologetically independent”; and

WHEREAS, in March 1813, when twenty-year-old Sam Houston left Maryville after six years of residence there to join the United States Army and serve under General Andrew Jackson, he uttered words that would prove to be prophetic: “You do not know me now, but you shall hear of me!”; and

WHEREAS, after being severely wounded and left for dead at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, Sam Houston rallied to study law and pass the bar; he served two terms in the United States Congress representing Tennessee and was subsequently elected governor of the Volunteer State, but he resigned before his two-year term ended; and

WHEREAS, President Jackson, his former commander, then appointed Sam Houston as a representative to Native Americans from the federal government, specifically the Cherokees, and he became a Cherokee citizen before reestablishing himself in Texas; and

WHEREAS, as a major general in the Texas Army, Sam Houston helped defeat Mexico and secure independence for the Republic of Texas; he served as Texas’s first and third president only to advocate for the annexation of Texas by the United States; and

WHEREAS, Sam Houston served as Texas's first United States senator and later as its seventh governor; he died in 1863 as an advocate for the preservation of the Union and stood against the extension of slavery into more states; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2016, Sam Houston's legendary military and political careers will be commemorated with the unveiling of a statue of him in a plaza constructed at the Maryville Municipal Building; and

WHEREAS, the seven-foot bronze statue by Wayne Hyde depicts Sam Houston, who lived in Blount County from 1807 to 1813, as he would have looked at twenty, setting out on a lifetime of great accomplishment; his famous words are chiseled into the Tennessee marble pedestal on which the statue will rest: "You Shall Hear of Me!"; and

WHEREAS, this special ceremony will include a performance by the Sam Houston Elementary Choir and will be attended by a large number of dignitaries, including the executive director of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, the former chief justice of the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court, the mayors of Conroe, Texas, and Huntsville, Texas, representatives from the Texas Center for Regional Studies, a distinguished historian and an elected official from Ireland where the Houston clan originated, and direct descendants of Sam Houston, including great-great-granddaughters Madge Roberts, Nancy Burch, and Penny Remick, from eleven states; and

WHEREAS, although Sam Houston's time in Maryville was brief, only six years, Blount County was instrumental in shaping the mind and philosophy of this future statesman and frontier Renaissance man; and

WHEREAS, self-taught and raised by a single mother, Sam Houston rebelled against what he perceived to be the tyranny of his brothers while working for them on the family farm and at their store; he eventually ran away from home to live with the Cherokee Indians on Hiwassee Island, was adopted by Chief Oo-LooTe-Ka, and given the Indian name, Co-lon-neh or "The Raven"; and

WHEREAS, recalled as his “most provoking student” by the famed founder and first president of Maryville College, Dr. Isaac Anderson, Sam Houston developed his love for reading, especially the Greek classics, while living with the Cherokees; and

WHEREAS, most notably, Sam Houston, at the age of eighteen, served as schoolmaster for one term in 1812 at the historic schoolhouse that now bears his name; in all his triumphs, he wrote that he experienced a “higher feeling of dignity and self-satisfaction” while teaching at the schoolhouse; and

WHEREAS, as city and civic leaders unveil the Sam Houston statue on March 19, we join with these distinguished citizens in commemorating the legacy of Maryville and Blount County’s most famous historical resident and reflecting upon the many ways that Sam Houston’s independent spirit and fierce individualism live on today in East Tennessee; 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 commemorate the unveiling and dedication of the Sam Houston statue at the Maryville Municipal Building and join with everyone participating in this historic event in honoring the indelible legacy of Sam Houston, who was molded in Tennessee, helped give birth to Texas, and played an important role in United States history.

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