

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 319

By Curcio

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Frank Goad Clement, Governor of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, born on June 2, 1920, at the Hotel Halbrook in Dickson, Frank Goad Clement was the son of Robert S. Clement and Maybelle Goad Clement and a graduate of Dickson County High School; and

WHEREAS, he attended Cumberland University in Lebanon and completed his legal education at Vanderbilt University Law School in 1942 before joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation, where he served as an agent and investigated internal security and espionage cases; and

WHEREAS, at the height of World War II, Frank Clement enlisted in the United States Army in November 1943 and eventually attained the rank of first lieutenant and commanding officer of Company C of the Military Police Battalion at Camp Bullis, Texas; and

WHEREAS, upon his return to civilian life after the war, Frank Clement entered public service as legal counsel for the Tennessee Railroad and Public Utilities Commission and worked in that capacity from 1946 to 1950; and

WHEREAS, practicing law with his father in Dickson in the early 1950s, he built a network of relationships across Tennessee when he was elected State Commander of Tennessee's branch of the American Legion during that time; and

WHEREAS, Frank Clement was elected governor of Tennessee in 1952 at the age of thirty-two after the successful completion of a campaign during which he traveled to all of Tennessee's ninety-five counties and showcased his skills as a gifted orator; and

WHEREAS, Governor Frank Clement was Tennessee's youngest and longest-serving governor in the 20th century, winning election as both the last two-year-term governor and the first four-year-term governor in Tennessee history; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, Governor Frank Clement delivered the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, during his ten-year tenure as governor, from 1953 to 1959 and from 1963 to 1967, Governor Clement won passage of numerous programs and initiatives, including the provision of free textbooks for public school children in grades one through twelve, the implementation of the State's first long-range highway construction program, and the establishment of the Department of Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, focused on improving the quality of life for all Tennesseans, Governor Frank Clement helped the State move from an agricultural to an industrial-based economy; and

WHEREAS, tragically, on November 4, 1969, at the age of forty-nine, Governor Frank Clement died in an automobile accident in Nashville shortly after he had announced plans to launch a fourth gubernatorial campaign; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Governor Clement was named an honorary co-chairman on the board of directors for the Country Music Association in 1959 and posthumously received the prestigious Connie B. Gay Award in 1970 in recognition of his exceptional service to that organization; and

WHEREAS, today, the birthplace of Governor Clement, the former Hotel Halbrook in Dickson, is home to the Clement Railroad Hotel Museum, which is establishing a centennial committee to honor the 100th anniversary of the birth of Governor Frank G. Clement in a manner that is a fitting and proper tribute to the legacy of this esteemed son of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Governor Frank

Goad Clement, reflecting on his unrivaled lifetime of public service and his many historic contributions toward improving the quality of life of the good people 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.