

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 751

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to commend and honor the Keruma family for their contributions to the City of Nashville.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should recognize those exemplary business owners who, through their hard work and dedication to excellence, have greatly contributed to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the late Hajime Keruma and his wife, Song-mi Keruma, opened Koto Sushi Bar on August 5, 1985; after thirty-four years in business, the oldest Japanese restaurant in Nashville closed on December 20, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Koto Sushi bar opened in 1985 in a small building on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Nashville, where Hajime Keruma served as head sushi chef and Song-mi Keruma oversaw the kitchen and dining area; they moved the restaurant to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South in 1994 and then moved to their final location on Union Street in 2008; and

WHEREAS, born on January 5, 1953, in Okinawa, Japan, Hajime Keruma moved to the United States in 1978 at the age of twenty-five; he worked briefly as a barge chef before being hired by Nashville's first sushi bar, Shogun, which he later left to open Koto Sushi Bar with his wife; after thirty-two years successfully operating Koto, Mr. Keruma passed away in 2017; and

WHEREAS, born on November 27, 1962, in Seoul, South Korea, Song-mi Keruma is credited as being the brains behind the beloved restaurant, helping to grow it into the brand it ultimately became; and

WHEREAS, while Koto Sushi Bar, a local favorite, will be greatly missed, the bonds formed with the Nashville community will endure; 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 honor the Keruma family for providing thirty-four years of excellent food and service to the people of Nashville, thank them for their contributions toward building the community, and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.