

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 858

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Jerry C. Johnson, Third Annual Living Legend Awards honoree.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated their time and energies toward enhancing the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Jerry C. Johnson, who is being honored at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards in recognition of the leadership and service he has provided to the people of Memphis and Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, the Third Annual Living Legend Awards ceremony, which honors Harriet Tubman and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis on March 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Coach Jerry Johnson is a living legend who posted an incredible 821 wins during his outstanding forty-six-year career as the men's basketball coach at LeMoyne-Owen College; and

WHEREAS, his victory total placed Coach Johnson in select company as one of only six National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) men's basketball coaches who have won more than 800 games; and

WHEREAS, truly an "old school" basketball coach, Jerry Johnson learned the game from John McClendon, who learned it from James Naismith, the inventor of basketball; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious career at LeMoyne-Owen, Coach Johnson won the 1975 NCAA Division III Championship, five Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) championships, and five Volunteer State Athletic Conference (VSAC) championships and took his teams to numerous NCAA regional playoff games; and

WHEREAS, he was named VSAC Coach of the Year four consecutive years and SIAC Coach of the Year on three occasions; he has been inducted into the Fayetteville State Athletic Hall of Fame, SIAC Basketball Hall of Fame, Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, and Memphis Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, his induction into the Catawba County Sports Hall of Fame celebrated his 136-16 record and four consecutive state high school basketball championships in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, since his retirement in 2005, a Memphis street has been named in his honor, and Coach Johnson has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the city; and

WHEREAS, Coach Johnson's most lasting legacy is the success of the young men he taught and coached over the course of his career; his leadership and expertise helped produce eight National Basketball Association (NBA) players, six secondary school coaches, seven collegiate coaches, four principals, a city councilman, the former mayor of Memphis, and many other dedicated professionals from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Coach Jerry C. Johnson is an exemplary individual; his commitment to excellence and community service is representative of the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; 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 congratulate Jerry C. Johnson upon his recognition at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards, applaud his outstanding community leadership, and extend our best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

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.