

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 940

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Johnnie Mosley, 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 Johnnie Mosley, 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 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, a librarian for thirty-two years, Johnnie Mosley has rendered exemplary service to teen and adult patrons at the Gaston Park, Crenshaw, and North branches of the Memphis Public Library system; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mosley has organized a number of programs for teens and adults, including Let's Rap About It, Reading with My Peers, the Youth Advisory Council, the annual Community Information Day and Musical Jam Session, and the award-winning Renaissance Men Book Club, now in its sixteenth year; and

WHEREAS, he has also organized library outreach programs and services for schools, neighborhood functions, and community centers; and

WHEREAS, a community activist of the highest order, Johnnie Mosley founded Citizens for Better Service in 1993 and has served as the leading spokesman for bus riders and the betterment of public transportation, writing a number of editorials in local newspapers; he is also

a member of an ad hoc committee of the Shelby County Commission that is researching options for funding public transportation in Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mosley is the founder of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Award program, which honors outstanding students and community role models who exemplify the qualities of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, an outspoken advocate for honoring the history and legacy of the 1968 sanitation workers, he wrote an editorial for the *Commercial Appeal* in 2015, calling on the City of Memphis to build a wall listing the names of the sanitation workers, including his father, who served the city in that capacity for five decades. In 2018, Mayor Jim Strickland dedicated the I Am A Man Plaza, which features a recognition wall that honors the 1968 sanitation workers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mosley has received a number of awards and accolades for his service as a librarian and community activist, including the key to the city from former mayor Richard Hackett, recognition as the Memphis Public Library Staff of the Year, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Community Service Award, the City of Memphis Outstanding Service Award, and the City of Memphis Award for Outstanding Contributions to the MLK 50 Campaign and Commemoration; and

WHEREAS, Johnnie Mosley 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 Johnnie Mosley 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.