

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 984

By Parkinson

A RESOLUTION to commend and honor James W. DeBerry, Sr., of Jackson for his years of service to his country and his community.

WHEREAS, it is our privilege to honor those estimable citizens who have performed with integrity and compassion in both public and private life; and

WHEREAS, James W. DeBerry, Sr., is one such estimable Tennessean whose lifetime of service and entrepreneurship serves as a credit to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Mr. DeBerry served for twenty-two years with the United States Army during the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Dominican Republic War; he served fifteen years touring with the 82nd Airborne Division and five years in Europe on the Austrian border; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong entrepreneur, James DeBerry has contributed to his community greatly through his numerous business ventures, including two restaurants, a nightclub, a nursery and daycare center, a barbecue pit, a dry cleaner, a barbershop, and a convenience store; his business acumen has created many job opportunities for the people of his community; and

WHEREAS, a fierce advocate for civil rights, Mr. DeBerry founded the Righteous Group Unity while he was in Vietnam and Utopia Enterprises in Jackson; he also has worked closely with the NAACP, helping to gain a charter for a youth chapter of the organization; and

WHEREAS, highly respected in his community and the nation as a whole, James DeBerry was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010, for which he received letters of congratulations from numerous state and national political figures, including the forty-fourth President of the United States, Barack Obama; he also received the Trailblazers for

African American Entrepreneurs Award in 2019 and was awarded a Day of Recognition by the State of Tennessee to be presented on his upcoming birthday, November 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is wholly fitting that we should recognize such an outstanding citizen whose selflessness and intrepid spirit represent the very best the State of Tennessee has to offer; 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 James W. DeBerry, Sr., for his service to his community, his country, and to the State of Tennessee and wish him continued success in all 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.