

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7005 of the First Extraordinary Session

By Carr

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the citizens of Sevier County upon the celebration of the county's 225th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should join with the counties that comprise this great State in celebrating joyous and historic occasions; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Sevier County are most assuredly deserving of special recognition, as they celebrate this year the 225th anniversary of the county's formation; and

WHEREAS, Sevier County was formed on September 18, 1794, from part of neighboring Jefferson County and has retained its original boundaries ever since; and

WHEREAS, Sevier County was named in honor of John Sevier, governor of the failed State of Franklin and first governor of Tennessee, who played a prominent role during the early years of settlement in the region; and

WHEREAS, Sevierville, which was also named for John Sevier, was established in 1795 as the county seat of government and is the eighth-oldest city in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, with a land area of 592.3 square miles, Sevier County is distinguished by its varied topography, which rises from the fertile lowlands along the French Broad and Little Pigeon rivers to the majestic peaks of the Great Smoky Mountains, including Clingman's Dome, the highest mountain peak in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing in the county before the Civil War included cottage industries, the Sevierville Pottery, mills, Sweden furnace, and the bloomery forge at Pigeon Forge, which was established by Isaac Love in 1817; and

WHEREAS, from the 1870s to the 1920s, flatboat transportation from Sevierville to the steamboats on the French Broad River increased trade, while construction of the Knoxville,

Sevierville, and Eastern Railroad (KS&E) and its extension to McCookville in 1920 proved a boon to manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, the logging industry flourished in the early 20th century in the Great Smoky Mountains, and the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the 1930s and the construction of Highway 441 through the center of the valley in the 1950s opened the area for the development of tourism; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in southern Sevier County has propelled the county's tourism industry ever since; the national park is the most visited in the entire system, welcoming over 10 million nature enthusiasts every year, most of whom arrive through Sevier County; and

WHEREAS, the Dollywood theme park in Pigeon Forge, named for Locust Ridge native and park co-owner Dolly Parton, admits some 2.2 million guests a year, making it Tennessee's most popular theme park and second-most frequented attraction, behind only the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Sevier County have added and continue to add immeasurably to the strength and character of Tennessee; their history and accomplishments have helped to build the cultural richness for which this State is known; and

WHEREAS, Sevier County's 225th anniversary celebration will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. on the lawn of the beautiful Sevier County Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor this fine community and its citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; 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 and congratulate the citizens of Sevier County upon the celebration of the 225th anniversary of the county's founding and extend to them our best wishes for continued success, growth, and prosperity in their outstanding community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.