

HOUSE RESOLUTION 19

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to welcome the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World to Memphis for the 2019 National Civil Liberties Annual Summit.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should specially recognize those exemplary clubs and organizations that are composed of concerned citizens who are dedicated to improving the quality of life in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable organization that evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all its endeavors is the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World, Inc., which is holding its 2019 National Civil Liberties Annual Summit in Memphis on April 11-12, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World, or the Elks, is the largest predominantly African-American fraternal organization in the world and has a membership of more than 450,000, with Lodges and Temples in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Cuba, the West Indies, the Virgin Islands, Panama, and the Bahamas; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Elks organization is: "That the welfare and happiness of its members be promoted and enhanced; the nobleness of soul and goodness of heart be cultivated so that the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly and Sisterly Love be inculcated; that its members and families be assisted and protected; and that the spirit of patriotism be enlivened and exalted"; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Liberties Department of the Elks is devoted to ending all forms of injustice against all persons, particularly with regard to impartial administration of and equal protection under the law, ending segregation of all kinds, earning a living wage, and promoting voter rights and accessibility, educational opportunities, and employment; and

WHEREAS, during the 2019 National Civil Liberties Annual Summit, under the conference theme of "Community Readiness 2019-2020," Elk leaders from thirty-eight states will gather to discuss issues such as redistricting, voter suppression, the federal budget, and the upcoming census, as well as various other issues that impact citizens at both local and global levels; and

WHEREAS, participating in the event are the following Elk leaders: Grand Exalted Ruler Leonard J. Polk, Jr., Esq.; Grand Daughter Ruler Margaret D. Scott; Grand Commissioner Civil Liberties Fred Martin; Grand Directress Civil Liberties Carolyn Toney; Deputy Director Civil Liberties Damein Kirkwood; Deputy Directress Civil Liberties Lois Everett; Tennessee State President Leslie Jones; Daughter State President E. Yvonne Joyce; Exalted Ruler Gregory L. Dodson; Daughter Ruler Yvonne Kent; Grand Lodge Secretary Richard A. Dennis, Sr.; Grand Treasurer Calvin Drew; and Tennessee Civil Liberties Director Felix B. Griggs; and

WHEREAS, the members of this laudable organization are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State; it is most fitting that these illustrious individuals be honored on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we welcome the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World as they gather in Memphis for the 2019 National Civil Liberties Annual Summit, extending our best wishes for the organization's continued success in its honorable and important endeavors.

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