

HOUSE RESOLUTION 24

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor the legacy of Harriet Tubman.

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was an American abolitionist and political activist who became a national icon of courage and freedom; and

WHEREAS, born Araminta "Minty" Ross on January 29, 1822, Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Dorchester County, Maryland; she was beaten and whipped by her various masters as a child, and at a young age, she suffered a traumatic head wound; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman escaped to Philadelphia in 1849 and immediately returned to Maryland to rescue her family; one group at a time, she brought her relatives with her out of the state, and she eventually guided dozens of other slaves to freedom; and

WHEREAS, known as "Moses," she used the network of antislavery activists and safe houses, known as the Underground Railroad, to make more than thirty missions to rescue dozens of enslaved people, family, and friends by night and in extreme secrecy, never losing a passenger; and

WHEREAS, after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, she helped guide fugitives farther north into British North America and helped newly freed slaves find work; she met abolitionist John Brown in 1858 and helped him plan and recruit supporters for the raid on Harpers Ferry; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman worked for the Union Army during the Civil War, first as a cook and nurse, and later as an armed scout and spy; she was the first woman to lead an armed expedition in the war, and she guided the raid at Combahee Ferry, which liberated more than 700 slaves; and

WHEREAS, following the end of the war, Harriet Tubman retired to her family home in Auburn, New York, which she had purchased in 1859, and cared for her aging parents; she was active for a number of years in the women's suffrage movement until she became ill; she died on March 10, 1913; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her courageous acts, Representative Barbara Cooper and the District 86 Advisory Team have named the Living Legend Harriet "Moses" Tubman Award in Ms. Tubman's honor, recognizing those citizens who have provided leadership and service in Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman inspired generations with her selfless acts of heroism; her acting with courage and conviction truly inspired young men and women across the country. More than a century after her passing, it is incumbent upon each of us to continue Harriet Tubman's legacy by working to build a just society dedicated to altruistic service and leadership; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and celebrate the legacy of Harriet Tubman, namesake of the Living Legend Harriet "Moses" Tubman Award, and give thanks for her many contributions to American society.

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