

HOUSE RESOLUTION 59

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Modeane Nichols Thompson of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Modeane Nichols Thompson; and

WHEREAS, Modeane Thompson was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on March 28, 1929, to Gladys Smith Nichols and Paul Henry Nichols, Mrs. Thompson graduated from Manassas High School and earned a degree in social work from Lemoyne-Owen College, where she was a member of numerous clubs on campus, including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Thompson served with acumen and alacrity for twenty-one years as a social worker for Family Services of Memphis, in which position she earned the respect of her peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, she was active in her community, having been a co-founder of her local chapter of The Panel of American Women and a founding member of the inaugural chapter of the Memphis Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association, and the University Lane Block Club; and

WHEREAS, she was a member of the NAACP, working as an assistant to the executive director, Maxine A. Smith; she was also a member of the Coalition of 100 Women, the Shelby County Interfaith Council, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Manassas High School Alumni Association, and the Lemoyne-Owen College Alumni Association and was chair of the Action Audit for Change Committee of the YWCA of Greater Memphis; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, honored Modeane Thompson with its inaugural Everyday Freedom Heroes Award; she was also honored for "Courage" by the Women of Achievement and received the 2014 Women's Foundation of Greater Memphis Legend Award and the Humanitarian of the Year Award from Diversity Memphis; in 2015, she was recognized by Mayor A C Wharton with the Be the Dream Award at the mayor's annual event at the historic Mason Temple; and

WHEREAS, Modeane Thompson was an active and devout member of the St. Therese the Little Flower Catholic Church, which she served faithfully for fifty-four years in church activities and initiatives, including working with The Legion of Mary, Parish Council, Black History programs, the St. Therese Feast Day Celebration, and the Silent Auction Fundraiser and conducting pre-marital workshops and counseling for the Diocese of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Modeane Thompson was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Thompson enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband of fifty-four years, Harry A. Thompson, until his passing in 2006; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her five children, Andrea Thompson Adam, Anthony Thompson, Alicia Thompson Willis, Arnold Thompson, and Alison Thompson Butler; her seven grandchildren, Nicholas DeAngelis, Arienne Thompson Plourde, Amelia Thompson, Alexandra Willis, Ainsley Willis, Alan Willis, and Andrew Adam; her three great-grandchildren, Nicholas DeAngelis, Jr., Joey DeAngelis, and Frederick DeAngelis; her sisters-in-law, Helen Thompson Mosby, Ann Freeman, and Teresa Williams; and a host of family and close friends; and

WHEREAS, Modeane Thompson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; 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 the

memory of Modeane Nichols Thompson, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Thompson.

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