

HOUSE RESOLUTION 245

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Carnita Faye "Amira" Atwater,
Third Annual Living Legend Awards honoree.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated their time and energies toward enhancing the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Dr. Carnita Faye "Amira" Atwater, who is being honored at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards in recognition of the leadership and service she has provided to the people of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, the Third Annual Living Legend Awards ceremony, which honors Harriet Tubman and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis on March 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, a native of Clarksdale, Mississippi, Dr. Carnita Atwater moved to Memphis at the age of fifteen and graduated as the valedictorian of her class at Frayser High School the following year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Atwater holds an associate degree in nursing, a bachelor's degree in community health education, a master's degree in gerontology and public health administration/psychology, and a doctorate in public health administration; and

WHEREAS, during her career, Dr. Atwater has worked extensively in nursing, health care management, and education, serving as a teacher, nurse, nursing home administrator, assistant hospital administrator, director of nursing, dean, medical director, and adjunct professor; and

WHEREAS, she opened her first Prestige Child Development Center in Clarksville in 1989, and at one point, she owned thirty-five residential properties, three commercial properties,

and 1,200 acres of land; in 2005, she was the only African-American woman in Shelby County to own a 100-acre farm, which was used to educate children from urban areas; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carnita Atwater has served the New Chicago community and the greater Memphis area in a number of capacities and is the executive director of the New Chicago Community Partnership Revitalization CDC; she personally donates bicycles, coats, toys, school supplies, and school uniforms to people in her community; and

WHEREAS, she is the proud owner of a number of museums, including the African American International Museum Foundation, the Kukutana Nature Center and Petting Zoo, the Buffalo Soldier's Museum, the Tuskegee Airmen Museum, the Cotton Jubilee Museum, the Black Holocaust Museum, the Black Wax Museum, the African American Hall of Fame, and the Blues Museum of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, in the last five years, the African American International Museum Foundation has fed more than 20,000 individuals annually, distributed more than 30,000 articles of clothing, helped 200 senior citizens from losing their homes due to unpaid back taxes, and purchased medication and medical supplies for more than 10,000 senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, a prolific writer, Dr. Carnita Atwater is the author of a number of books for adults and children; and

WHEREAS, her many professional accomplishments aside, she is grateful for the love and support she shares with her fifteen adopted children and the forty-two foster children she has been blessed to care for in her home; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carnita Atwater is an exemplary individual; her commitment to excellence and community service is representative of the Volunteer State, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we congratulate Dr. Carnita Faye "Amira" Atwater upon her recognition at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards, applaud her outstanding community leadership, and extend our best wishes for continued success in her 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.