

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 118

By Roberts

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the good people of the City of Springfield upon the occasion of the city's bicentennial.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those estimable cities that are celebrating significant milestones in their histories; and

WHEREAS, at the first Tennessee General Assembly in 1796, a county seat for Robertson County was authorized, and it was established two years later; the City of Springfield was then incorporated in 1819, and its citizens are celebrating the city's bicentennial this year; and

WHEREAS, the plan for the City of Springfield incorporated fifty acres and provided for a public square, ten streets, and sixty-six lots, which were sold to the public for eight dollars each; the first courthouse was built of hand-hewn logs; and

WHEREAS, an area rich in natural resources, the City of Springfield serves as a commercial center for the large agricultural region that surrounds it; the soil and climate are ideally suited to the cultivation of dark-fired tobacco, which has had a major economic, social, and cultural influence on the area since the nineteenth century. By 1890, Robertson County was the seventh-largest tobacco-producing county in the United States, and it continues to be one of the nation's largest tobacco-producing counties, known as the "Home of the World's Finest Dark Fired Tobacco"; and

WHEREAS, Robertson County is also one of the top five counties in the State for the production of wheat, corn, and hay; one of the top ten counties in the production of soybeans; and one of the top twelve counties in beef cattle and dairy cattle; and

WHEREAS, the manufacturing center of Robertson County, the City of Springfield is home to Electrolux Home Products, Martinrea Fabco, Unarco Material Handling, Johnson Electric, International Automotive Components, and Owens Corning; and

WHEREAS, the City of Springfield presently has a population of more than 16,000 residents, and it is home to Stokes Brown Public Library, the Highland Crest College Campus, The Legacy golf course, the Robertson County Family YMCA, the University of Tennessee Highland Rim Research and Education Center, and NorthCrest Medical Center, a state-of-the-art, 109-bed facility and medical office building; the city is also proud to be served by the Springfield-Robertson County Municipal Airport, which has earned a state-wide reputation as a quality general aviation facility; and

WHEREAS, the newly renovated Robertson County Courthouse is located on The Square, the city's original downtown commercial district, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; The Square and its surrounding streets include a number of buildings and churches that were constructed in the nineteenth century, as well as the Springfield-Robertson County Chamber of Commerce, the *Robertson County Times*, and the Robertson County History Museum; and

WHEREAS, since 1990, the City of Springfield has operated under the council/manager form of government; the city manager oversees the daily operation and reports to a seven-member Board of Mayor and Aldermen, who are popularly elected to four-year terms of office; and

WHEREAS, during the City of Springfield's bicentennial year, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly honor this fine community and its citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the good people of Springfield as they

celebrate their city's bicentennial and extend to them our best wishes for continued success and prosperity in the future.

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