

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 122

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Salvation Army of Chattanooga for 125 years of service.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize those worthy nonprofit organizations that endeavor to improve the quality of life for the underserved in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Salvation Army of Chattanooga is one such organization, which has served the people in its community for 125 years, providing vital resources to those in need without discrimination and with a focus on the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, the Salvation Army is an international organization that assists twenty-five million people in 128 countries around the world; it ranked among Forbes' listing of the 100 Largest Charities for 2017, generating a total revenue of \$3.7 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Salvation Army provides nearly twenty programs and services, including the Angel Tree, which supplies gifts for children and seniors during Christmas; the bell ringer and red kettle initiative, which raises money for families during the holidays; the residential re-entry center, which assists soon-to-be-released inmates with finding employment and housing; and a disaster services program, which is one of the largest federally recognized emergency disaster services agencies in the nation, providing relief to up to two million disaster survivors and first responders each year; and

WHEREAS, the Salvation Army of Chattanooga traces its inception back to March 16, 1893, when J.C. Smith organized the local organization under the direction of Bramwell Booth, son of the international organization's founder, William Booth of England, who established the Christian outreach movement in 1865; and

WHEREAS, according to an article in *The Chattanooga Times* published on March 18, 1893, the Salvation Army appealed to the neglected "poorer classes of the city"; the organization has remained true to this tenet, serving those in need through two World Wars, the Great Depression, and various economic ups and downs; and

WHEREAS, the Chattanooga Salvation Army's first shelter was a four-story working man's hotel opened on November 18, 1903, at 532 Market Street; from there, the organization moved to 809 Georgia Avenue in 1920; it relocated once again to Roanoke Avenue in 1959, and in 1975, the organization moved into its current location on McCallie Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Salvation Army of Chattanooga currently serves more than 20,000 people annually by providing services such as temporary shelter, utility bill payments, clothes, and kindness; one of the organization's most successful projects is ReCreate Café, a day shelter for the homeless that serves coffee and provides activities such as art classes; and

WHEREAS, Chattanooga's Salvation Army provides help, hope, and healing; it is Christian compassion in action, and its success is a testament to the unwavering community support it has received throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we recognize the Salvation Army of Chattanooga on this special occasion; 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 hereby honor the Salvation Army of Chattanooga for serving the people of its community for 125 years, thanking the volunteers and staff of the organization and extending our best wishes for its continued success.

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