

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 211

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the citizens of Oak Ridge upon the celebration of the seventieth anniversary of the Oak Ridge gate opening.

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

WHEREAS, one such notable city is Oak Ridge, the citizens of which will be celebrating the seventieth anniversary of the opening of the city's gates to the public in a ceremony to be held on March 23, 2019; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, less than a year after the Pearl Harbor attack, President Franklin D. Roosevelt made the decision to launch a large-scale effort to create the world's first atomic bomb; the task was code-named the Manhattan Project; and

WHEREAS, to make way for the Manhattan Project, people living in the Tennessee communities of Wheat, Robertsville, Scarbrough, East Fork Valley, Gravel Hill, New Hope, Melton Hill, Lupton Crossroads, and Elza were forced to move, sometimes with as little as two weeks' notice, and displaced from their homes, businesses, schools, and churches; and

WHEREAS, the Clinton Engineer Works site, including Oak Ridge, the Secret City, was fenced off and patrolled by armed guards in vehicles and on horseback while the residents completed their work in secret; and

WHEREAS, after World War II ended, the Manhattan Project was placed under the direction of the Atomic Energy Commission, now the Department of Energy, which decided to open the gates of the Secret City to the public in 1949, the same year Oak Ridge was officially recognized on State and national maps; and

WHEREAS, the gates to the City of Oak Ridge were officially opened to great fanfare on March 19, 1949, as a curious public was allowed inside the Secret City for the first time; the day's events included a parade, speeches from visiting dignitaries, and a banquet and dance; and

WHEREAS, notable attendees included Vice President Alben W. Barkley, Governor Gordon Browning, cowboy star Rod Cameron, and popular radio host Jack Bailey; and

WHEREAS, the seventieth anniversary commemoration will honor the amazing efforts of the 100,000 Americans who labored within Oak Ridge to end World War II, the fifty to seventy million people who died on four continents and throughout the world's oceans during that tragic conflict, and the brilliant combination of the Department of Energy's nuclear complex and the United States Armed Forces, which has kept mankind away from the precipice of World War III; and

WHEREAS, this body wishes to grasp this golden opportunity to honor and commend the past and present citizens of the great City of Oak Ridge; 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 citizens of Oak Ridge upon the celebration of the seventieth anniversary of the Oak Ridge gate opening and extend our best wishes for much 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.