

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 387

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Watertown-Wilson County Hamblen Bell Public Library upon the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this General Assembly to recognize those venerable institutions that are devoted to serving their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such institution is the Watertown-Wilson County Hamblen Bell Public Library, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Library Board signed a contract with the City of Watertown in May 1969 for quarters to house a branch library; at that time, the city also agreed to contribute one hundred dollars annually for books; the library's basic collection was furnished by the Highland Rim Regional Library; and

WHEREAS, the Watertown-Wilson County Hamblen Bell Public Library welcomed patrons into its current facility for the first time on August 18, 1983; the University Medical Center gave the library a building on the public square to be used as a permanent site, and matching funds from the State added to those provided by the county allowed the board to remodel and equip a building of 1,520 square feet. Additionally, the Friends of the Library raised \$8,000 for this new building; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the library received a generous donation from the estates of Mary Margaret and Mattie Terry Hamblen as well as a grant from Charles Albert and Elaine Bell, which allowed the library to double in size by purchasing and remodeling the adjacent building; and

WHEREAS, the Watertown-Wilson County Hamblen Bell Public Library has been ably led by librarians Joyce Robinson, Mattie Ann Ricketts, Dorothy Hardcastle, Erline McEachern,

Pauline Armstrong, Shirley Wyatt, Alice Green, and Rebecca Gold-Johnson; the current branch manager is Pamela Wiggins; and

WHEREAS, today, the Watertown-Wilson County Hamblen Bell Public Library is open to the public for forty-two hours each week and has an annual circulation of more than 23,000 items; the library also offers a number of programs, including the Girls Who Code Club; and

WHEREAS, the Watertown-Wilson County Hamblen Bell Public Library has served the citizens of Watertown for fifty years, and it is fitting that this organization be honored; 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 librarians, staff, volunteers, and patrons of the Watertown-Wilson County Hamblen Bell Public Library on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary and extend our best wishes for every 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.