

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1300

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Hospice of Chattanooga on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary medical institutions and their remarkable personnel who, through their unwavering commitment to excellence, are credits to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable institution is Hospice of Chattanooga, which is commemorating forty years of providing exceptional care to citizens of the Chattanooga community as well as southeast Tennessee and northwest Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Hospice of Chattanooga was founded in 1980 by a group of volunteers who understood the significance of what a new plan of care called "hospice" could mean to a patient facing death due to a disease; and

WHEREAS, a number of nurses recognized that there was a better way to take care of patients in the dying process than what was being offered at the time; one such nurse was Christine Little, who played an important role in the founding of Hospice of Chattanooga, which began in a small room at a local health department; and

WHEREAS, nurses within the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Home Health Department began training under the model of Riverside Hospice in New Jersey. Lena Adams and Agene Parsons became the first two hospice nurses in the new program in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, the reach of Hospice of Chattanooga has grown significantly over the years, with the organization now providing the best patient and caregiver experiences to people in twenty-two counties across Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia; and

WHEREAS, in early 2019, Hospice of Chattanooga announced the creation of Alleo Health System to serve as the parent organization of its growing nonprofit family of service organizations; and

WHEREAS, Alleo Health System now oversees Hospice of Chattanooga as well as Good Shepherd Hospice, which provides hospice care in four counties in western North Carolina; the organization also manages a number of other palliative care and children's programs; and

WHEREAS, with its staff of nearly 400 employees, Alleo Health System provides family-focused care to meet the medical, emotional, and spiritual needs of its patients during their end-of-life journey; and

WHEREAS, for forty years, Hospice of Chattanooga has served its community with the greatest skill and compassion, and its dedicated staff of professionals strives to provide the highest quality and most compassionate care possible; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are privileged to recognize Hospice of Chattanooga for its countless contributions to the well-being of the citizens of Tennessee; 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 administrators, physicians, nurses, and staff of Hospice of Chattanooga upon the occasion of the hospice's fortieth anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in providing compassionate care to the wider Chattanooga community they serve.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.