

A RESOLUTION to honor Vernia and Arnold Young, Black Family Achievement Gold Pyramid Award nominees.

WHEREAS, every two years, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority nominates couples married more than fifty years for the Gold Pyramid Award, a Black Family Achievement Award recognizing the achievements and endurance of black families; and

WHEREAS, Vernia and Arnold Young were joined in holy matrimony more than 59 years ago, and since that fateful day this loving couple has shared the joys and sorrows of life's journey, facing the world as one; and

WHEREAS, as proud parents and grandparents, Vernia and Arnold Young epitomize "the enduring black family", and as shining examples for others to emulate, they are deserving recipients of a nomination for the Black Family Achievement Gold Pyramid Award; and

WHEREAS, the Youngs were born in a small, segregated community in LaFollette, married at a young age, then moved to Knoxville where Vernia attended Knoxville College and Arnold often worked as many as three jobs to support the family; and

WHEREAS, Vernia notes that "it wasn't easy, we first decided what we were going to do and worked toward that"; their diligence and perseverance paid off as Vernia earned her master's degree at the University of Tennessee and taught at Lake City Elementary, Green Hill Elementary, Lonsdale and Sam Hill Schools, and Arnold became a valued employee at TVA, working there for 38 years; and

WHEREAS, the Youngs are proud of their successful children, Peggy Jean Mitchell, also a school teacher, and Arnold Hugh Young, Jr., a retired employee of General Electric; and

WHEREAS, the Youngs taught their children the importance of Christianity, to be considerate of and show respect for others, to use discipline when needed and to set and actively pursue their goals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Young also value their relationship with their three grandchildren and their nephew, James Davenport, who they had a hand in rearing; and

WHEREAS the Youngs are devout Christians and evince their strong belief in the Lord through their active membership at Rogers Memorial Baptist Church, where Arnold has served as a deacon for 30 years; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that we honor families such as the Youngs as they are truly the rock solid foundation upon which our society is built; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby congratulate Vernia and Arnold Young of Knoxville on being nominated for the Black Family Achievement Gold Pyramid Award and wish them well this Saturday, April 22, 1995, as the winner of this prestigious award is selected.

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

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