

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 543

By Lundberg

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Samantha Leigh Lundberg upon her graduation from high school.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to academic excellence and public service, have distinguished themselves in the classroom and in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, Samantha Leigh Lundberg is one such exceptional young lady who is graduating from Tennessee High School in Bristol this spring; and

WHEREAS, born on July 25, 1991, Ms. Lundberg lettered in swimming and conceived and founded the first girls' golf team at Tennessee High School, where she also investigated starting a Young Republican Club; and

WHEREAS, fondly known as Sam by her friends and family, she has demonstrated her singular abilities as a leader among her peers through her membership in the Anchor Club, a school organization to which a student must be nominated by his or her peers; and

WHEREAS, she has volunteered at the Salvation Army and with food drives and even played in powder puff football games with the Anchor Club; and

WHEREAS, Sam was nominated for and attended the National Youth Leadership Council in Washington, D.C.; the Council empowers youth to transform themselves from recipients of information and resources into valuable, contributing members of a democracy; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable young lady has served as a Peer Tutor for special education classes, in which position she has distinguished herself by going out of her way to make these students feel special and fit in with school life; and

WHEREAS, extremely active in her community, Sam has rendered astute and compassionate service to numerous worthy organizations and causes, including the American Red Cross, Abuse Alternatives, and the Sharing Christ mission in downtown Bristol, where she has served food to the homeless; she has also volunteered to deliver food to and check smoke detectors for shut-in residents; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Samantha received Jesus Christ and was saved with Alexa Cassell, who will be her college roommate at East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lundberg is a member of Addilynn Memorial United Methodist Church, where she cares for children during church services; she is relied upon by the pastor for her leadership and adored by the children; and

WHEREAS, she has been a member of several mission trips, including missions to Shiprock, New Mexico, where she helped build a day care center, and Mississippi, where she helped rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, a talented artist, Sam constantly produces incredible artwork, which has been displayed at the William King Regional Arts Center, Tennessee High School and the Lundberg home; and

WHEREAS, a sports and outdoor enthusiast, Sam has a natural gift for balance, and this gift is demonstrated in her snowboarding, wakeboarding and other athletic adventures; and

WHEREAS, possessing a vibrant and affectionate personality, Sam has a positive impact on others through action and her own positive attitude, and she works hard to make sure that others feel special, often bestowing nicknames upon her friends; and

WHEREAS, Sam has been given the nickname of "Liberty," because her compassionate nature embodies these poignant words featured on the base of the Statue of Liberty: "*Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,*", and

WHEREAS, Sam became a very special friend to Mrs. Kennedy at Tennessee High School after the loss of her husband; Mrs. Kennedy was most appreciative of the way in which Sam often changed her day for the better with her outgoing attitude and warmth; and

WHEREAS, deeply interested in politics and government, Sam has volunteered at Republican headquarters since she was in eighth grade and has been active in several political campaigns; and

WHEREAS, Sam once made a late-night call to her principal to get her government teacher's telephone number, so she could call the teacher about an impending visit to the Tri-Cities area by GOP Presidential nominee, Senator John McCain; Sam invited her teacher to skip class and go with her to see Senator McCain, and even asked her teacher to give her extra credit for attending the event; and

WHEREAS, Sam has worked assiduously during local and state elections to help her chosen candidates; she demonstrated her political convictions when she called U.S. Senator Bob Corker's campaign to complain about their lack of signage at polling places; refusing to take no for an answer, she obtained those signs on her own and placed them appropriately at polling places; and

WHEREAS, Samantha Lundberg's dedication to excellence in all aspects of life is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Samantha Leigh Lundberg on her upcoming graduation from Tennessee High School, commend her ongoing commitment to public service and helping her fellow human beings, and wish her much continued success and happiness as she continues her education at East Tennessee State University.

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