

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mrs. Etta Ruth Berry on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Etta Ruth Berry will celebrate her 100th birthday on February 5, 2009, a milestone which will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Berry, affectionately known as "Ma Berry," was born on February 5, 1909, in Fackler, Alabama, to Will and Luvenia Russ; and

WHEREAS, she married Milton Austin Berry in 1927, and they were blessed in this union with three children: Leona, Charles, and Ernestine; and

WHEREAS, honored by their family and friends, the Berrys celebrated fifty years of wedded bliss on February 2, 1977; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Berry has been richly blessed with fourteen grandchildren, twenty-three great-grandchildren, seventeen great-great-grandchildren, and three great-great-great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, upon relocating to Chattanooga in 1932, Etta Ruth Berry joined the Greater Friendship P.B. Church under the leadership of Reverend A.M. Syler; her love of cooking and caring for others became her Ministry, and in 1998 she was presented with a plaque in recognition of her decades of compassionate service to family and friends during their times of illness and bereavement; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Berry joined the Senior Usher Board in 1941, and actively served until 1994, at which time she was honored for her years of dedication and outstanding service as a "door keeper in the house of the Lord"; and

WHEREAS, she also served faithfully on the church finance committee, taught the young adult Sunday School class, was an active member of Club #1, and helped organize the Sewing and Savings Club; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Berry has been a valued member of the Sisters Aide Society for over fifty-three years, standing as president and vice president for thirty years; she was also very supportive of the Mallard Creek Sisters Aide Educational Convention and was presented with seven awards at various times for her dedicated and loyal service, and she remains an active member of the Friendship Good Neighbor Club; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of her community, Etta Ruth Berry is known for her solid Christian beliefs, her service and love, and her role as a reservoir of faith and outreach to the people of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, as she enters her eleventh decade, Mrs. Berry possesses a vitality and a zest for life that is extraordinary for a person of any age, and she continues to contribute to the rich life of her church and participates in various community events, as her health permits; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; 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 honor and congratulate Mrs. Etta Ruth Berry upon the celebration of her 100th birthday and extend to her our best wishes and many happy returns.

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