

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 53

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to recognize East Ridge Middle School on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the members of the General Assembly are proud to recognize those institutions of learning that are dedicated to providing quality education to every student in their community; and

WHEREAS, East Ridge Middle School is one such exemplary institution that has rendered sterling service to the children of Hamblen County for half a century; and

WHEREAS, one of the first "systems-built" buildings in the State of Tennessee, East Ridge Middle School opened to students as a 65,000 square-foot, open-spaced facility located on U.S. Highway 11E in Hamblen County on September 1, 1972; and

WHEREAS, East Ridge Middle School moved to its current location in Whitesburg on St. Clair Road in 2001, due to rapid growth on the east end of Hamblen County, and opened to students on January 8, 2001, in the middle of the school year; and

WHEREAS, the school building features an expanded gym, cafeteria, and enclosed classrooms and is structured in a "pod" design to ensure academic success for each grade level, helping students and teachers to meet and nurture specific academic and social needs; and

WHEREAS, East Ridge Middle School has emerged as a leader among the schools of Hamblen County and the surrounding areas, utilizing a teacher-facilitated, student-centered model with curricular instruction that teaches English language arts, math, science, and social studies at each grade level along with special services for resource, gifted, speech, counseling, and vocational rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, an academically comprehensive school, East Ridge offers a variety of career and technical education classes in such areas as social health, technology systems, and computer science; fine arts classes in such areas as visual arts, vocal music, and band; and a well-rounded physical education curriculum; and

WHEREAS, East Ridge Middle School has had only five principals during its existence, beginning with George Johnson, who was followed by Glen Kanipe, Marcia Carlyle, and Danny Templin, and presently enjoys the inspirational leadership of Nick Darnell; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its staff of thirty-five classroom teachers, East Ridge boasts a full-time nurse, a guidance counselor, a librarian, a bookkeeper, a main office secretary, an administrative assistant, a school security officer, three full-time special services assistants, a part-time teacher for English language learners, and a part-time instructional facilitator in addition to a school psychologist and a school licensed clinical social worker housed at East Ridge that are shared among a few other schools; and

WHEREAS, with an official motto of "Achieving Excellence Together," East Ridge Middle School is committed to its mission to provide a challenging educational experience that will prepare all students for a successful high school experience and to ultimately become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years, East Ridge Middle School has been the bedrock of public education in its community; the school continues to innovate and redefine public education while staying true to its roots; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we specially recognize East Ridge Middle School in celebration of this milestone achievement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of East Ridge Middle School,

honor its administration, faculty, staff, and students, both past and present, for their commitment to quality education, and extend our best wishes for every future success.

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.