

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 195

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to honor the National Coalition of 100 Black Women and its Tennessee chapters.

WHEREAS, it is important that organizations strive to work toward the health, education, and economic empowerment of women of color; and

WHEREAS, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Incorporated, is one such estimable organization aiming for those goals; and

WHEREAS, in the winter of 1970 in New York City, twenty-four black women, led by visionary Edna Beach, began meeting in their homes to assess the problems and opportunities that the turbulent 1960s produced; and

WHEREAS, those meetings resulted in the formation of the Coalition of 100 Black Women, which worked steadily to master the root causes of issues that affected their families, their communities, and themselves; and

WHEREAS, from those beginnings, the New York Coalition, with over 500 members, decided to expand beyond the boundaries of the city and include the term "National" in its original title; and

WHEREAS, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, or the NCBW, was launched on October 24, 1981, with representatives from fourteen states and the District of Columbia in its ranks and with the distinguished Jewel Jackson McCabe as its first national president; and

WHEREAS, today, the NCBW consists of thousands of progressive women of African descent in sixty chapters whose commitment to gender equality and socioeconomic advancement remains steadfast, and whose mission is to advocate for women of color on all levels; and

WHEREAS, there is a united voice for more than fourteen million African-American women in this country, serving as a leadership forum, an organization of both career professional and volunteer women, a network for personal and professional development, and an advocacy group; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Metropolitan Chapter has joined with the Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Memphis chapters to hold their “2015 Tennessee Legislative Days” in conjunction with their annual “Sister-for-Sister Conference”; and

WHEREAS, the organization’s national president, Michele McNeill-Emery, as well as chapter presidents Bettye L. Boone of Memphis, Faith Edwards of Chattanooga, C. Delores Mitchell of Knoxville, and Veronica Marable Johnson of Nashville, are in attendance with their respective memberships; and

WHEREAS, a strong presence at the Capitol demonstrates the strength and commitment of this organization to health care, jobs, education, voters’ rights, and other major issues facing all women; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause to honor such a stellar organization; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize the National Coalition of 100 Black Women and its Tennessee chapters as they convene in Nashville for the “2015 Tennessee Legislative Days” held in conjunction with their annual “Sister-for-Sister Conference” and honor them for their dedication and commitment to public service and to the empowerment of all women of color throughout this nation.

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