

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 259

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to honor the Clarksville Rotary Club on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary organizations and their remarkable members who, through their unwavering commitment to excellence, are a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable organization is the Clarksville Rotary Club, which was chartered on May 17, 1917, and remains committed to Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self," as it continues to be highly recognized throughout the Clarksville community for its many contributions; and

WHEREAS, as a worldwide organization, Rotary provides humanitarian service, encourages ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, over the last century, the Clarksville Rotary Club has time and again dedicated its efforts to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Clarksville since its very first major accomplishment in 1917 of purchasing Murtland Field, which was given to the local high school as their first ever athletic field; and

WHEREAS, more recently, the Clarksville Rotary Club shared in the creation of a handicap-accessible playground and splash pad at Heritage Park; other major projects have included a \$30,000 commitment for the Rotary International Avenue of Flags at McGregor Park, \$100,000 to the playground at Liberty Park, the purchase of 100 acres now known as Rotary Park, two Habitat for Humanity houses, and a \$25,000 donation to Civitan Park for a new playground; and

WHEREAS, the Clarksville Rotary Club also brought Little League baseball to Clarksville in 1950, donated \$40,000 for the completion of the John Bartee 4-H Livestock Center, funded two endowments at Austin Peay State University, and made a \$50,000 donation to help fund the Salvation Army facility and a \$25,000 donation to the Wings of Liberty museum at Fort Campbell; and

WHEREAS, the Clarksville Rotary Club also funded the Ajax Turner Senior Citizen Center's recreation room, finished the waiting room at Memorial Hospital, gave over \$340,000 to the PolioPlus program, and sponsored two additional Rotary Clubs in Clarksville, the Sunrise and the Sunset clubs; and

WHEREAS, the Clarksville Rotary Club has supported a number of local organizations, including the Smith-Trahern Mansion, Shriners Burn Hospital, Clarksville Museum, Clarksville Train Station, Montgomery County Rescue Squad, the Girl Scouts of America, the Boy Scouts of America, American Red Cross, United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Crippled Adults Hospital in Memphis, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Salvation Army, the Food Initiative, Meals on Wheels, the Fisher House, Camp Rainbow, Friends of Rotary Park, Manna Café, LEAP Organization, and the Imagination Library; and

WHEREAS, 2017 also marks the centennial anniversary of the \$1 billion charitable arm of Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation, which is dedicated to advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace. Through grants and other resources, Rotary members develop sustainable projects that promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water, support education, save mothers and children, and grow local economies; and

WHEREAS, internationally, Rotary brings together a global network of 1.2 million volunteer leaders through its more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in 200 countries and geographical areas in an effort to improve lives at both the local and international levels; and

WHEREAS, working toward a polio-free world, Rotary's top priority is the global eradication of polio, and the organization launched its polio immunization program, PolioPlus, in 1985. In 1988, it became a leading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative along with

the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and, more recently, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Rotary has contributed more than \$1.5 billion and countless volunteer hours to eradicate polio; through 2018, every dollar Rotary commits to polio eradication will be matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, up to \$35 million a year. Since the initiative began, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99.9 percent, from about 350,000 cases a year to fewer than seventy-one confirmed cases in 2015; and

WHEREAS, as the Clarksville Rotary Club celebrates its rich history of one hundred years of public service, it is appropriate to honor the many club members, both past and present, who have volunteered their time, talent, and resources in order to serve their community and fellow man; and

WHEREAS, the Clarksville Rotary Club is most assuredly worthy of the members of this legislative body's recognition and approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the members, both past and present, of the Clarksville Rotary Club for their dedication to public service, congratulate them on the club's 100th anniversary, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in all their future endeavors.

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