

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 301

By Ragan

A RESOLUTION to honor the Oak Ridge Children's Museum upon its fortieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly honor and commend those notable organizations that endeavor to further develop the minds and imaginations of our children; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Ridge Children's Museum is one such sterling institution that celebrated its fortieth anniversary on March 11, 2013; and

WHEREAS, for the past forty years, the Oak Ridge Children's Museum has held as its mission to provide educational programs and exhibits with an emphasis on play and hands-on learning for all ages and backgrounds in the arts, environmental studies, history, and the world cultures that inspire, enrich, and improve the lives of East Tennessee children and their families and to collect and preserve artifacts that support the Museum's educational goals; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Museum was conceived in 1973 as a Girl Scout project. It was formally opened on March 11, 1973, in the library of the former Jefferson Junior High school in 2,000 square feet of space and later moved to the former Highland View Elementary School in January 1974; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, the museum purchased the building and land from the city of Oak Ridge and now operates in 54,000 square feet with exhibits, classes, and programs for all ages; and

WHEREAS, the growth of the museum from a Girl Scout project to the facility that exists today was fueled largely by the efforts of longtime Executive Director Selma Shapiro, who came to the museum in 1973 and served as director until 2004; and

WHEREAS, after retiring, Ms. Shapiro continued to volunteer regularly at the museum until her death in May of 2011; and

WHEREAS, while at the Oak Ridge Children's Museum, Selma Shapiro served as president of the Association of Youth Museums and thereby brought the museum national attention; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shapiro was also the recipient of numerous awards for her participation in the arts, arts administration, and museum innovation, and she left a great legacy to the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge, the East Tennessee region, and the museum community at large; and

WHEREAS, for forty years, the Oak Ridge Children's Museum has been enriching and inspiring the intellect of Tennessee's youth, and it is appropriate that we honor this august institution on the celebration of its fortieth anniversary; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the Oak Ridge Children's Museum on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary. We extend our warmest wishes to the administration and staff of the museum for many years of continued success.

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