

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 302

By Ragan

A RESOLUTION to recognize Oak Ridge National Laboratory on the occasion of its eightieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this General Assembly to specially recognize Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), one of the leading scientific think tanks and testing grounds in the world, on the occasion of its eightieth anniversary; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, less than a year after the Pearl Harbor attack, President Franklin D. Roosevelt made the decision to launch a large-scale effort to create the world's first atomic bomb; the task was code-named the Manhattan Project; and

WHEREAS, at 5:00 a.m. on November 4, 1943, the Graphite Reactor at Oak Ridge—the world's first continuously operated nuclear reactor—went critical; as part of the Manhattan Project, the reactor demonstrated production of plutonium, enabling the needed processes to make the second atomic bomb that would end World War II; and

WHEREAS, after the war, the Graphite Reactor was transitioned to multiple new missions beyond its original use, and the site where it was located would become Oak Ridge National Laboratory; and

WHEREAS, ORNL scientists and engineers leveraged the Graphite Reactor to explore new areas of research, including materials development and radiochemistry; and

WHEREAS, the reactor helped establish ORNL as one of the world's leading scientific institutions by enabling pioneering neutron scattering experiments that would win a Nobel Prize, producing the first reactor-based radioisotopes for medical use, and generating the first electricity from a nuclear reactor; and

WHEREAS, although the Graphite Reactor would be shut down in 1963, ORNL continued to build upon its breakthroughs in the subsequent decades, delivering scientific and technological innovation to support national priorities; and

WHEREAS, today, ORNL employs more than 6,000 and performs research across biology and environmental sciences, clean energy, computing, isotopes, materials science, national security, nuclear energy, and neutron science; and

WHEREAS, the laboratory is home to multiple world-leading facilities, including Frontier, the world's fastest supercomputer, along with the Spallation Neutron Source, High Flux Isotope Reactor, and Manufacturing Demonstration Facility; and

WHEREAS, ORNL leads numerous strategic national missions focused on cybersecurity, manufacturing, quantum information sciences, fusion energy, and isotope production; and

WHEREAS, ORNL also benefits the State of Tennessee by serving as a magnet to companies wanting to be located near its leading expertise and capabilities; and

WHEREAS, a 2020 report indicated that the presence of the Department of Energy, including ORNL and the Y-12 National Security Complex, in Tennessee had a \$7 billion economic impact on the State; and

WHEREAS, from its first days, Oak Ridge National Laboratory has served an instrumental role in the prosperity of the nation and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is wholly fitting that we memorialize Oak Ridge National Laboratory on this historic occasion; 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 honor and commend Oak Ridge National Laboratory on the occasion of

its eightieth anniversary and thank its employees, both past and present, for their extraordinary achievements and distinguished service to our nation.

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.