

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 410

By Pruitt

A RESOLUTION to designate May 12, 2011, as "Public Health Nurses Day" in Davidson County.

WHEREAS, public health nursing is a unique nursing specialty; and

WHEREAS, public health nursing is described as the practice of promoting and protecting the health of populations, using knowledge from nursing, social, and public health science; and

WHEREAS, public health nursing is an interdisciplinary practice built upon the belief that health arises from a familial, communal, and societal context in which health and health outcomes are influenced by income, education, employment, environment and access to resources; and

WHEREAS, in 1893, Miss Lillian Wald founded the Henry Street Settlement and the Henry Street Visiting Nurse Service in New York City, providing nursing and other aid to poor and immigrant populations - thus was the beginning of public health nursing in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1911, the City of Nashville hired Mrs. W. F. Acree to provide nursing and other aid to childbearing women and their families, addressing an infant mortality rate of 300 per 1,000 live births - thus was the beginning of public health nursing in Nashville and Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, in 1914, the City of Nashville hired its first African American public health nurse to provide nursing and other aid to families of color suffering from disparate rates of tuberculosis disease - thus was the beginning of public health nursing services aimed towards the reduction of health disparities and inequities in Nashville and Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, for a century the public health nurses of Nashville and Davidson County have provided public health nursing services to populations within, and throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, these services have promoted, protected, and restored the health of generations within and throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, public health nurses have led and participated in public health efforts to address health issues ranging from smallpox to tuberculosis to shigellosis; from venereal disease to syphilis to HIV/AIDS; from the 1940 influenza pandemic to swine flu to the H1N1 pandemic; from infant mortality to child neglect to childhood injuries; from cancer to tobacco use; from diabetes and heart disease; to overweight and obesity to healthy eating and active living; and

WHEREAS, the practice of public health nursing evolves to meet the changing needs of the community it serves, striving to create healthier places, healthier policies, and healthier people; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate May 12, 2011, as "Public Health Nurses Day" in Davidson County in honor, recognition, and celebration of 100 years of public health nursing service to the populations of Nashville and Davidson County.

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