

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 433

By Sparks

A RESOLUTION to recognize the local television and radio
broadcasters of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, local radio and television stations provide a valuable service to the members of the communities they serve and are committed to keeping citizens informed about local and regional news and events; and

WHEREAS, local broadcasters are able to build a rapport with their viewers and listeners by highlighting issues of local interest, targeting coverage, and airing public interest and opinion stories that impact their communities; and

WHEREAS, local radio and television broadcasters are very flexible and can instantly report on serious weather conditions, changes in community event schedules, and bulletins from local health departments and elected government officials, as well as offer public affairs programming as a community service; and

WHEREAS, local broadcasters are instrumental in keeping the populace informed during times of civil unrest, severe weather events and floods, threats of terrorist attacks, and severe public health emergencies; and

WHEREAS, in January 2020, communities both large and small across Tennessee and the world began to experience the fear and uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, residents were quarantined; businesses were restricted or closed; jobs were furloughed or eliminated; and government and emergency officials struggled to inform and educate the public, but local broadcasters stepped up to disseminate critical information through various platforms; and

WHEREAS, on March 2-3, 2020, Middle Tennessee experienced a devastating tornado outbreak that resulted in twenty-five deaths, 309 injuries, and over \$1.6 billion in property damage; and

WHEREAS, in May and June of 2020, Nashville and other Tennessee communities experienced localized civil unrest and demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, on December 25, 2020, Nashville experienced a Christmas Day bombing that destroyed historic buildings on Second Avenue, shuttered businesses, caused massive outages to critical communications infrastructure, and spread fear among residents; and

WHEREAS, on March 27-28, 2021, much of Tennessee endured historically destructive flooding, causing widespread property damage, fatalities, and numerous emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in advertising revenue dropping more than fifty percent, and local radio and television stations have experienced economic hardship, strains on resources, and personnel shortages; and

WHEREAS, destructive storms, civil unrest, and the dangers involved in contracting the deadly virus resulted in serious health concerns and unsafe conditions for frontline broadcast journalists and personnel; and

WHEREAS, throughout all of these difficult conditions, numerous emergency situations, natural disasters, and often life-threatening circumstances, local Tennessee television and radio stations were there, on the front lines, selflessly bringing awareness, assistance, emergency alerts, and critical information to the citizens of their local communities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize the local television and radio broadcasters of Tennessee and

the many benefits and services that they provide to our communities and the residents of the Volunteer State.

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.