

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 438

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Shannon McCloud of A Secret Safe Place for Newborns of Tennessee, Inc.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Shannon McCloud, executive director of A Secret Safe Place for Newborns of Tennessee, Inc.; her compassionate, capable leadership has been essential to the success of the organization, the important work of which has saved over 100 lives; and

WHEREAS, A Secret Safe Place for Newborns of Tennessee, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization that supports and assists facilities where mothers can surrender their babies; begun in 2001 following the passage of Tennessee's Safe Haven Law, the organization seeks to prevent newborn abandonment through education and public awareness; and

WHEREAS, Shannon McCloud took the helm as inaugural executive director of A Secret Safe Place for Newborns of Tennessee in July 2004; in the fifteen years since, she has successfully carried out the mission of the organization, giving selflessly of her time, energy, and unending passion in an effort to see the program succeed throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, working tirelessly alongside board members, Ms. McCloud oversees and supervises the operation of the organization at every level, from administrative duties and education programs to development, marketing, and public relations; and

WHEREAS, Shannon McCloud has done her utmost to ensure that the public is aware of the important work of her organization through public service announcements, a website and

social media presence, school and community education, statewide conferences, and presentations to the Tennessee Hospital Association, including a webinar for Safe Haven facilities and staff; and

WHEREAS, devoted to connecting A Secret Safe Place for Newborns in Tennessee with partner entities, Ms. McCloud has collaborated extensively with various outside agencies, including the Department of Children's Services, Department of Health, Department of Tourism, and Department of Education, as well as the University of Tennessee College of Nursing, Maryville College Bonner Scholars Program, and the National Safe Haven Alliance; and

WHEREAS, she has also developed and organized many fundraising events, including Rock the Cradle Serves that Save, Bounce for Babies, Breakfast with Santa, Lifesaver Luau, and A Secret Safe Place for Newborns in Tennessee anniversary celebrations; and

WHEREAS, most importantly, Shannon McCloud has given her heart and soul to fight for the lives of the most defenseless among us, serving as a vocal advocate for the 103 children who, because of her work and the work of the organization, are healthy and living in loving homes. She has also helped ensure that there have been no unsafe or illegal abandonments in the last four years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McCloud epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and she should be specially recognized for her many accomplishments and devoted work; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Shannon McCloud for her selfless service as executive director of A Secret Safe Place for Newborns of Tennessee, Inc., and extend to her our best wishes for much 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.