

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 648

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION relative to honoring the late Speaker Pro Tempore Emeritus Lois M. DeBerry of Memphis.

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2013, Speaker Pro Tempore Emeritus Lois M. DeBerry, an icon of Tennessee politics who served more than forty years in the House of Representatives, passed away; and

WHEREAS, Lois DeBerry was first elected to represent Memphis's House District 91 in 1972 during a time when many Americans were seeking to extend justice and equality to all people by changing the nation's social order, and her election was certainly a sign of the times; and

WHEREAS, Representative DeBerry made history by becoming the second African-American woman to be elected to the General Assembly and the first to be elected to the General Assembly from the City of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, a peerless legislator who was a passionate advocate for minorities and women, Lois DeBerry built a rich legacy of public service in the House and served twenty-four years as its Speaker Pro Tempore; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to House Joint Resolution 516 of the 107th General Assembly, Lois DeBerry was named the first Speaker Pro Tempore Emeritus of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Lois DeBerry served with acumen and compassion in all the roles she filled on Capitol Hill, and she earned the respect of her peers and the public at large for her tenacity, loyalty, and expertise; and

WHEREAS, although she has left this world for a far better existence, Lois DeBerry is still with us every day in heart, mind, and spirit as we conduct the people's business, and it is

only appropriate that the House chambers should reflect the continued inspiration she provides to her colleagues; and

WHEREAS, this body has previously authorized the placement of a plaque at the desks of Representative John Bragg and Representative James "Mr. Jim" Cummings commemorating their long and faithful service as legislators, and we should act in a like manner to appropriately honor Representative Lois DeBerry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that to commemorate her more than forty years of exemplary service as a member of the House of Representatives, an appropriate plaque be permanently affixed to Speaker Pro Tempore Emeritus Lois M. DeBerry's former desk of longest duration (no. 83) in the House chambers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such plaque shall contain a brief synopsis of Speaker Pro Tempore Emeritus DeBerry's service in the General Assembly.