

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 768

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to recognize Brother Robert Thomas "Bob" Evans on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years in the ministry; and

WHEREAS, Brother Robert Thomas "Bob" Evans is one such estimable person who served with distinction for many years as a minister, and he pastored Love's Way Community Church in Lebanon since May of 2005; and

WHEREAS, very early in this year, Brother Evans and his wife and ministerial partner, Peggy, stepped away from pulpit ministry, but rest and leisure are not their destinations; they have, instead, devoted more of their time to the administrative duties of the Joseph's Storehouse Food Ministry, a hunger relief and food distribution non-profit organization that the Evans were instrumental in founding; and

WHEREAS, Brother Evans is the son of the late George and Allie Evans, and he was born in Middle River, Maryland, on July 26, 1935; he came to Tennessee when his parents returned here to their region of origin in 1940 after struggling to find work in various places around this nation during the years of the Great Depression. In time, they moved back to their home in Lebanon, where they joined their siblings in dutifully caring for their aging parents; and

WHEREAS, Brother Evans has been an active member of the ministry all his life. Indeed, he grew up in the church but truly found his calling later in life through the founding of Love One Another Ministry; and

WHEREAS, through Love One Another, Brother Evans was able to reach countless people here and abroad, as he conducted multiple mission trips to Haiti and parts of Russia while also distributing clothes, food, and other essential items to second and third world

countries across the globe. He also opened more than one hundred Christian-based schools in his own community and overseas; and

WHEREAS, Joseph's Storehouse was established under the auspices of Love One Another Ministry in 1999. When that parent organization closed its doors, he was able to sustain the food distribution ministry, which has since grown and prospered exponentially; and

WHEREAS, Brother Evans is perhaps Wilson County's greatest champion for hunger relief; in 2013, Joseph's Storehouse distributed nearly four hundred food boxes, and served approximately 4,800 families totaling more than 19,000 individuals receiving food. These numbers serve as a clear and convincing testament that hunger is real and lives throughout our communities and among us; and

WHEREAS, the noble efforts of this extraordinary leader have, by the hands of God Almighty, blessed individuals and families at their times of need; and

WHEREAS, no man should be an island unto himself, and Brother Evans has been richly blessed with the love and companionship of Peggy Bellar Evans ever since the fateful day of their matrimony in June of 1955; and

WHEREAS, their holy union produced four children; their son, Robert Russell, died in infancy, but their daughters, Laurie, Lisa, and Libby, are all married and have blessed the Evans with five grandchildren, four great-grandsons, and three more babies on the way; and

WHEREAS, Brother Evans is a bona fide man of God who has endeavored tirelessly throughout the years of his life to do the will of his Lord and Master. He exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and the faith and works that are characteristic of a true Christian; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that this legislative body acknowledge the end of the pulpit ministry career of Brother Evans and commend the good works that he has done; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Robert Thomas "Bob" Evans our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

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