

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 806

By Floyd

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Kim Criswell on being named the 2014 Tennessee Woman of Distinction by the American Lung Association of Tennessee.

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

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy citizen, who was born in Hampton, Virginia, but claims Tennessee as her home state and Chattanooga as her hometown, is Kim Criswell, who will be recognized as the 2014 Tennessee Woman of Distinction by the American Lung Association at the organization's 29th Annual Women of Distinction Awards Luncheon; and

WHEREAS, recipients of this coveted award are women with ties to the Chattanooga community who evidence a great spirit of altruism by working with honor, integrity, enthusiasm, generosity, and compassion to improve the quality of life for their fellow human beings; and

WHEREAS, Kim Criswell grew up in Chattanooga and graduated from Hixson High School. She spent her childhood taking singing, acting, and dancing lessons, all the while dreaming of a career on Broadway; and

WHEREAS, following high school, Ms. Criswell matriculated at the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, where she studied musical theater and perfected her talents and skills in all phases of theatrical arts; and

WHEREAS, from Cincinnati, Ms. Criswell moved to New York, and during the 1980s, her dreams of Broadway, indeed, came true. She became a seasoned performer, and her United States stage appearances included roles with the original casts of *Nine*, *Baby*, *The First*,

Stardust, and *The Threepenny Opera*, to name a few; on the west coast, she performed in Opera Pacific's *Kismet* and *Cats* in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, between 1989 and 1991, Kim Criswell established residence in London and starred in three studio recordings of famous Broadway shows, *Anything Goes*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Annie Get Your Gun*, and in subsequent years, she performed in two musical plays, *Elegies For Angels*, *Punks and Raging Queens* and *Hollywood and Broadway II*; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Kim Criswell won a Helen Hayes Award in 1989 for her performance in *Side By Side By Sondheim* and an Olivier Award nomination for her rendition of *Annie Oakley*; and

WHEREAS, Kim Criswell is known throughout the sphere of theater and opera as a woman whose fabulous voice and vocal style are reminiscent of the iconic Ethel Merman, and she is often described as one of the most exciting performers of our time; and

WHEREAS, she has been the featured soloist with a plethora of distinguished orchestras around the globe, having appeared with such orchestras as Royal Liverpool, Berlin, London, Israel, and Hong Kong Philharmonics; BBC Concert Orchestra; Philharmonia; City of Birmingham Symphony; London Symphony; BBC National Orchestra of Wales; London Sinfonietta; Vienna Symphony; Orchestra Della Toscana; Flemish Radio Orchestra; Suisse Romande; North Netherlands Symphony Orchestra; Boston Pops; and the Cleveland, Chicago, Utah, Dallas, Toronto, Vancouver, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Colorado, San Antonio, New Jersey, and National Symphony Orchestras; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Criswell's career accomplishments include the production of twenty-five recordings that include a mix of solo albums, studio cast albums, original cast albums, studio recordings, and numerous compilation albums; and

WHEREAS, now in the peak years of her music and acting career, Kim Criswell has entered the artistic world of screen acting; as recently as 2013, she performed with Rupert Everett and Maggie Gyllenhaal in the feature film *Hysteria*, which was preceded by a performance alongside John Cusack in *True Colours*; and

WHEREAS, Kim Criswell is an extraordinary talent whose roots are sunk deep in the heart of the City of Chattanooga, where as a child, she dreamed dreams of theater and acting, music and singing; it was there that she started down a lifelong path toward the fruition of her dreams that has taken her to some of the world's most acoustically perfect and richly elegant venues, and in those places, she has brought fantasy to life with the sound of her phenomenal voice; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body is pleased to express our pride and pleasure in the world-famous actress and singer, Kim Criswell, and congratulate her upon the honor she is now receiving in her hometown of Chattanooga; 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 hereby recognize Kim Criswell upon being named the 2014 Tennessee Woman of Distinction by the American Lung Association of Tennessee, congratulate her upon this honor and the exalted career she has had on stage and in studios around the world, and extend to her our best wishes for continued success in all of her future personal and professional endeavors.

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