

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 844

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Georgia Anna King, Third Annual Living Legend Awards honoree.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated their time and energies toward enhancing the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Georgia Anna King, who is being honored at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards in recognition of the leadership and service she has provided to the people of Memphis and Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, the Third Annual Living Legend Awards ceremony, which honors Harriet Tubman and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis on March 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Evangelist Georgia A. King is both a legendary and contemporary figure in the civic life of Memphis; she is renowned and respected as an ordained minister, pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement, effective community leader, and stalwart supporter of the disadvantaged, the mentally ill, and the homeless; and

WHEREAS, at the age of twenty, Mother King initiated a personal mission to rescue the homeless; and

WHEREAS, she later worked as a mobilizer, organizer, and marshal for Memphis's Black Mondays marches in support of civil rights led by the Reverend Ezekiel Bell and acted as vanguard in the march led by Mrs. Coretta Scott King after Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Mother King was a leader of the Southern contingency of the New Exodus Walkers who walked more than 250 miles to the U.S. Capitol to raise public awareness

about homelessness, which event convinced Congress to restore funding to assist the homeless; and

WHEREAS, a grassroots activist of the greatest dedication, she is currently working to open Miracles Mission for the Homeless; and

WHEREAS, the founder and chief executive officer of the Housing Now Task Force, Mother King works closely with SCLC and the Poor People's Campaign; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Memphis City Council designated a segment of Poplar Avenue as "Evangelist Georgia A. King Avenue"; and

WHEREAS, her lifelong commitment to uplifting her fellow human beings has earned Mother King numerous honors and accolades, including the National Rosa Parks Award, Women of Achievement Award, Women of Excellence Award, *Tri-State Defender* Legacy Award, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Anna King is an exemplary individual; her commitment to excellence and community service is representative of the Volunteer State, and she should be specially recognized; 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 congratulate Georgia Anna King upon her recognition at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards, applaud her outstanding community leadership, and extend our best wishes for continued success in her 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.