

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 851

By Todd

A RESOLUTION to recognize Pat Kerr Tigrett on her many contributions to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are honored to recognize those estimable individuals whose professional success and personal benevolence greatly benefit the State of Tennessee and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Pat Kerr Tigrett, an iconic fashion designer and philanthropist and a true gem within the Memphis community; renowned for her endless generosity, she is known throughout the world for her wedding gown designs and her expansive collection of historical garments and textiles; and

WHEREAS, Pat Kerr Tigrett's designs are unparalleled within the fashion world; Oprah Winfrey once said, "Her fashion heirloom gowns of antique lace have been called the Rolls Royce of the fashion industry." In fact, the late Jacquelyn Kennedy Onassis while editing *The Tiffany Wedding* book, chose Pat Kerr's designs to be the centerfold; and

WHEREAS, her designs have been featured on *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, CNN, and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, to name a few, and have been included in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, Estee Lauder's "beautiful" perfume campaign, *Vanity Fair*, *A Plaza Wedding*, *Tiffany Bridal*, *Martha Stewart Wedding*, *W* magazine, and *Avenue*, among others; and

WHEREAS, Pat Kerr Tigrett has been associated with major bridal shows located all over the world: Dupont, Cartier, Plaza Hotel, and Waldorf Astoria Hotel, and has been featured in special promotions with Gorham, Tiffany's, and Waterford Crystal; and

WHEREAS, she still finds time to participate in charity fashion shows for nonprofit organizations, including the Northwood Institute in Dallas, Texas, the American Cancer Society,

the Orpheum Theatre in Memphis, the American Heart Association, the Junior League in New York and Birmingham, Alabama, and Dress for Success in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Pat Kerr Tigrett owns one of the largest private collections in the world of royal gowns, garments, and items worn and used by monarchs from many different historical periods; items from her private collection have been on display in the Metropolitan Museum of Art; Kensington Palace in London, England; the Ferragamo Museum in Florence, Italy; the Prague Castle Museum in Prague, Czech Republic; and the Tennessee State Museum; and

WHEREAS, her private royal collection includes four couture gowns that belonged to Princess Diana, 100 pieces that belonged to the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, and items that belonged to Queen Victoria, Empress Eugenia, Edward VII, the Duke of Wellington, and the Duke of Kent; and

WHEREAS, as a civic leader, Pat Kerr Tigrett has lent her considerable skills and expertise to a number of worthy organizations, including the University of Memphis Athletic Advisory Committee, Tennessee State Museum's Costume and Textile Institute, the Memphis Film Forum, the Soulsville Foundation and the Soulsville Charter School Board, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Gala and St. Jude Professional Advisory Board, Memphis Planned Parenthood Board, Boy Scouts of America Board, the National World War II Museum Board in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Ronald Reagan Library Committee in Simi Valley, California; and

WHEREAS, she has further served an array of boards, organizations, and events as chairman, such as the Gibson GuitarTown Board in Memphis, The Blues Ball, the National Civil Rights Museum opening, Northwest Airlines and KLM inaugural flight festivities, the Policeman's Ball, the Memphis Symphony Ball, and Governor Sundquist's inaugural celebration; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Pat Kerr Tigrett has received a myriad of awards throughout her lifetime in recognition of her many contributions to Memphis; she was the first woman included in the Peabody Duck Walk Hall of Fame; named one of the *Memphis Flyer's* 25 Who Shaped Memphis: 1989-2014; and selected for *Memphis Magazine's* Who's Who Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, additionally, she has been recognized as the Distinguished Woman of the Year by the Northwood Institute, Southern Lady of the Year by Hoffman Media in Atlanta, and Downtowner of the Decade; and

WHEREAS, Pat Kerr Tigrett has raised over a billion dollars throughout her career in Memphis for the Pyramid, the lighting of the Bridge, and the Blues Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Pat Kerr Tigrett is an inspiration to all who know her, and her dedication to the City of Memphis and the State of Tennessee is worthy of approbation by this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize Pat Kerr Tigrett for her many contributions to the City of Memphis and the State of Tennessee, applaud her tireless service to her community and fellow citizens, and extend our best wishes for her every future success and happiness.

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