

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 883

By White D

A RESOLUTION to posthumously honor Dr. Ann Campbell for her dedication to educating young children with special needs.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those Tennesseans whose dedication to service through education has helped to ensure that all children learn and grow into productive citizens regardless of their physical or mental abilities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ann Campbell was one such exceptional educator whose early intervention efforts on behalf of children with special educational needs provided them with opportunities previously unavailable; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Campbell began working with young children with disabilities while earning her doctorate at the University of Memphis, and during that time, she co-authored *A Model for Preschool Curriculum: Project Memphis*, a structured intervention program that has been replicated and used throughout the United States for decades; and

WHEREAS, after joining the faculty of Middle Tennessee State University in 1981 as a professor of special education, Dr. Campbell saw the desperate need for a developmental preschool in Murfreesboro; in 1983, she founded and served as the director of "Project Help," the first center-based early intervention program for young children in Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Campbell's groundbreaking "Project Help" program was in place at Middle Tennessee State University three years prior to enactment of Public Law No. 99-457, the federal law mandating services for children with special needs from birth to five years old; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Campbell's role expanded in 1989, when she also became director of the Tennessee Early Intervention System, which served fifteen counties in south central

Tennessee; in this position and as director of “Project Help,” she procured and managed more than \$23,000,000 in federal, state, and private grants to support early childhood intervention programs at Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Campbell’s leadership was instrumental in the funding, design, and construction of a free-standing building for “Project Help” on North Baird Lane on the Middle Tennessee State University campus; the facility opened in 1997 and expanded in 2007 to a second campus location known as the Fairview Center; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Campbell’s groundbreaking work in early childhood education consistently placed Middle Tennessee State University at the forefront of early childhood education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Campbell’s dedication to serving young children also encompassed a lifetime of educating and training future early childhood teachers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Campbell’s strong foundation for “Project Help” enabled the program to provide home services for families who have young children with developmental delays, inclusive classes for children ages three months to kindergarten, and additional hands-on learning experiences for Middle Tennessee State University students and Motlow State Community College Nursing Program students; and

WHEREAS, to better reflect the comprehensive services offered, as well as the woman who made them possible, “Project Help” is being renamed “The Ann Campbell Early Learning Center at Middle Tennessee State University”; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Campbell remained devoted to the work of “Project Help” until her untimely passing in 2011; and

WHEREAS, without Dr. Campbell’s decades of devotion to special education, thousands of Tennessee children with developmental delays would never have received the services and support necessary to thrive, and their families would never have received proper support to help their children; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ann Campbell’s dedication to educating young children is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; 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 posthumously commend and honor the late Dr. Ann Campbell for her exemplary efforts to educate the young children of Tennessee, extend our gratitude for her service to special education, and honor her memory in saluting the renaming of the program she established as the "The Ann Campbell Early Learning Center at Middle Tennessee State University".

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