

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 933

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION recognizing Naomi M. Jerkins on the occasion of her eightieth birthday.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those citizens who are celebrating momentous occasions in their lives; and

WHEREAS, Naomi M. Jerkins is one such estimable individual who, on January 19, 2014, celebrated her eightieth birthday, a milestone commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Elder J.C. and Versie Mae Donald, Mrs. Jerkins was born and raised in Enterprise, Alabama; where she graduated from Bellwood High School; and

WHEREAS, she is a highly respected member of the Clarksville community, in which she has lived and served for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, for fifteen years, Mrs. Jerkins served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher in the Clarksville/Montgomery County School System, in which position she earned the respect of her peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, she is also a creative ministry leader and an accomplished speaker who dedicates much of her time to serving her church and to serving others. She is highly sought-after for her oratorical abilities, attending and speaking at numerous conferences and events, and twenty-five years ago, she founded People Helping People to assist those in her community who are in need; and

WHEREAS, a gifted singer, Naomi Jerkins served as the Director of Music for the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Cumberland River South Kentucky Middle Tennessee District Association; she founded a number of musical groups, including the Spiritualettes, the

Saint John Radio Choir, and Christian Women Around the Clock and lent her expertise to the position of Director for the National Baptist Convention Musical Choir; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jerkins founded the Clarksville Ministers Wives Union in 1987, serves as the Music Director for the Ministers Wives Union of the National Baptist Convention of America, and is the founder of Women Reaching Women, which features all of the women's ministries of Saint John Baptist Church. She has also served as a member of the Saint John Music ministry and as a Sunday school teacher for more than forty years, and she is a beloved advisor and counselor to the young men and women of the Saint John congregation; and

WHEREAS, Naomi Jerkins and her husband, Pastor Jerkins, were blessed with four children, Jeffery, Jerald Marc-Anthony, and twins Jennifer and Jacqueline. They are also the doting grandparents of Joy, Genevia, Makayla, Marissa, Jayla, and Jordan, and the great-grandparents of Nijia, Quavion, and Tatiana; and

WHEREAS, as she enters her ninth decade, Mrs. Jerkins is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; 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 commend and congratulate Naomi M. Jerkins on the occasion of her eightieth birthday, extending 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.