

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 955

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Eureka Lodge #3 in Memphis on the occasion of its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary fraternal organizations that, through an abiding commitment to excellence, have contributed greatly to this State for many years; and

WHEREAS, one such notable organization is Eureka Lodge #3 in Memphis, which celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, a landmark occasion in the organization's illustrious history, Eureka Lodge #3 has stood as a beacon of brotherhood and service within the heart of Memphis for 150 years; and

WHEREAS, an anniversary celebration in honor of the members of Eureka Lodge #3 will be held on March 23, 2024, with the theme of "community first"; the keynote speaker will be Most Worshipful Grand Master L. Lamont Banks, the seventeenth Most Worshipful Grand Master of Tennessee, whose message is "community service"; and

WHEREAS, organized on March 28, 1874, as Eureka Lodge U.D. (under dispensation), with Most Worshipful Grand Master G.W. Levers presiding, the organizational lodge met under dispensation in King Solomon Hall, and a Letter of Dispensation was granted to Senior Warden William O.D. Neal, who was later elected Worshipful Master; Brother Charles Hooks was elected secretary of the lodge; and

WHEREAS, on August 20, 1875, Eureka Lodge was granted a charter and was initially known as Eureka Lodge #3; an integral organization in the Memphis community, the history of the lodge includes the names of some of the most prominent citizens of the Bluff City; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 1925, with Worshipful Master George W. Hulsey officiating, Eureka Lodge conferred the first degree of Masonry on Reverend Charles F. Williams, and on June 5 of that same year, Reverend Williams became a full member of the lodge; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Williams was elected Worshipful Master of Eureka Lodge in June 1938, which, at that time, had forty-five members and one penny in the treasury; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Reverend Charles F. Williams was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master of the State of Tennessee, and Eureka Lodge had grown to 511 members and boasted more than \$5,000 in its treasury by that time; and

WHEREAS, honored past masters of Eureka Lodge #3 include Samuel Anderson, James A. Blankenship, John H. Canada, Joseph K. Carr, Shawn Douglass, Charles D. Graham, Felix Griggs, Jerry Kimble, Edward H. Lindsey, Willie Lowe, Brandon Martin, Ike Mason, Dennis Murphy, Sr., Mack H. Reed, Reverend Stanley T. Richardson, Jr., Lemonte Spencer, Lloyd E. Stovall, Harold L. Taylor, Joe Taylor, Jr., Tracy E. White, Ezell Williams, Frederick Tennial, and Jerome McGee; and

WHEREAS, current officers of Eureka Lodge #3 are Kelly D. Price, Worshipful Master; Mario Eason, Senior Deacon; Edward Willington, Senior Warden; John Roberson, Junior Deacon; Zachary Massey, Junior Warden; Michael Pope, Senior Steward; Phil Pontoo, Treasurer; Kylan Williams, Junior Steward; Johnnie Young, Secretary; Devin McNairy, Tyler; and James Arradondo, Chaplain; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the accomplishments in Eureka Lodge, members from the lodge have established or revitalized other lodges; members of Eureka Lodge possess a variety of talents, which they willingly place at the disposal of the lodge and the Masonic Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Eureka Lodge #3 has fostered a membership that has devoted itself to

perpetuating the public good and service to the community, and it is fitting that this entity be honored on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend members, both past and present, of Eureka Lodge #3 in Memphis for their dedication to public service, congratulate them on the lodge's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in all their 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.