

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1120

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Old Hickory.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly recognize those cities, towns, and communities within Tennessee that are celebrating momentous occasions and marking notable historical events; and

WHEREAS, the historic neighborhood of Old Hickory in Davidson County is one such beautiful community, which will this year commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment in 1918; and

WHEREAS, the origins of Old Hickory can be traced back to World War I and January 1918, when the United States government contracted with E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company to build the world's largest gunpowder plant on 5,600 acres in the hairpin turn of the Cumberland River known as Hadley's Bend; and

WHEREAS, when the war ended on November 11, 1918, more than 3,800 buildings had been constructed on the site, with housing for more than 35,000 people as the rural area was turned into a well-planned city; and

WHEREAS, a thoroughly modern town, Old Hickory boasted a post office, theaters, churches, a bank, a fire department, a modern sewage system, a Y.M.C.A., and school facilities to accommodate the plant workers and their families; and

WHEREAS, after the war ended and the need for the plant ceased to exist, Old Hickory was virtually uninhabited by 1920. Nashville Industrial Corporation, a group of investors, purchased Old Hickory from the federal government and sold much of the plant's equipment before selling the town and plant to the DuPont Company in 1923; and

WHEREAS, DuPont built many more homes over the next decade, using the same basic floor plans it had used as the government's contractor on the original construction, and maintained Old Hickory as a company town, repairing and renovating the homes it built and rented to its workers and their families; and

WHEREAS, in the 1940s, as the company town concept ended across the nation, DuPont sold hundreds of the Old Hickory houses to the employees who had been renting them, while many others were razed; and

WHEREAS, today, the village of Old Hickory remains a vibrant community in the shadow of the DuPont Plant, which continues to employ hundreds of area residents through various new companies; and

WHEREAS, the historic community of Old Hickory will specially commemorate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary June 1-3, 2018, with an Old Hickory Centennial celebration, featuring a wide array of activities and events, including a parade, fireworks, tours, a tree planting, a time capsule, a golf tournament, a concert, a dinner, and a community worship service; and

WHEREAS, for the past century, the Old Hickory community has stood as a beacon of all that is good about Tennessee, and its residents are among the State's finest citizens. We are honored to join with these sterling individuals in their recognition of this august occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the citizens of Old Hickory in celebrating the community's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and extend our best wishes for a joyous and memorable centennial celebration.

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