

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1156

By Swann

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Rebecca Evans Johnson on the celebration of her eightieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Rebecca Evans Johnson will celebrate her 80th birthday on June 18, 2012, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, fondly known as "Mimi" to her family, Mrs. Johnson was born on June 18, 1932, in Fulton County, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, after her mother's untimely passing, Mimi Johnson was entrusted into the care of her beloved aunt, Blanche Evans Terrett, who taught her the value of hard work and service to others; and

WHEREAS, displaying the tremendous work ethic for which she is still renowned, Mrs. Johnson entered the workforce at the tender age of seven, picking cotton for only one cent a pound; and

WHEREAS, Mimi Johnson graduated from Western High School in 1941, and through diligent study, steady composure during examinations, and steadfast commitment of time and talent, was named Valedictorian of St. Joseph Hospital Nursing School in 1952; and

WHEREAS, she was joined in holy matrimony with Dr. James Donald "J-Don" Johnson in 1958, and their blessed union produced six children: Jennifer, Neil, Don, Holly, Joel, and Ada and ten grandchildren: Jennie, Rebecca, Taylor Grace, Robert Neil, Anna, Emma, William, Catherine, James, and Josie; and

WHEREAS, a gifted and dedicated nurse, Mimi Johnson rendered compassionate care to the sick and suffering at St. Joseph's Hospital, the Internal Revenue Service, and St. Francis Hospital, fulfilling each of her professional obligations as a health care professional with acumen, integrity, and empathy; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rebecca Johnson is also a dedicated civic leader who has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order through her work with numerous noteworthy organizations, including serving as a member of Mother's Clubs and as a room mother at St. Agnes Academy, St. Dominic School, and Holy Rosary School and by founding the Lamar Clinic with the aid and support of her husband; and

WHEREAS, a woman of faith, Mrs. Johnson has been a devout member of the Holy Rosary Church for over half a century, graciously serving as a greeter and active participant in RCIA; and

WHEREAS, this steadfast servant of the Almighty is also an indispensable member of the Madonna Circle and devotes countless hours to studying the holy scriptures as a member of several different Bible studies around Memphis; and

WHEREAS, as she enters into her ninth decade, Mimi Johnson possesses a vitality and a zest for life that is extraordinary for a person of any age and continues to be energetically involved in her community; 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 SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Rebecca Evans Johnson upon the celebration of her 80th birthday and extend to her our best wishes.

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