

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1178

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on the occasion of the institution's 50th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which, for the past fifty years, has combated childhood cancer through world class research and effective and compassionate care; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, located in the heart of Memphis, Tennessee, is internationally recognized for its pioneering research and treatment of children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was founded in 1962 by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, who always said, "No child should die in the dawn of life," and, against many odds, became pivotal in one of the great success stories of modern medicine - transforming the most common form of childhood cancer from a virtual death sentence to a treatable disease; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's discoveries have helped push overall survival rates for childhood cancers from 20 percent when the hospital opened to 80 percent today, and the survival rate for the most common childhood cancer, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, has increased from 4 percent in 1962 to 94 percent today; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital continues to be a global resource for childhood cancer eradication by rapidly and freely sharing its research findings; the spirit of communication and cooperation that pervades St. Jude has resulted in the hospital being named one of the top institutions in *The Scientist's* "Best Places to Work in Academia" for the sixth consecutive year, ranking second among U.S. institutions; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a leader in understanding the long-term effects of childhood cancer treatment and pursuing improved treatments that ensure the best possible quality of life for survivors; and

WHEREAS, in addition to pediatric cancer research, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a leader in sickle cell disease research, is a globally prominent research center for influenza, and has produced groundbreaking research on child nutrition and AIDS; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude pioneered the concept of having various disciplines work together under one roof, alongside the patients they are treating; this integration gives the work of the hospital new meaning, because diseases are not viewed in the abstract, but are seen as the patients who are fighting the diseases; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly, recognizing St. Jude's importance to the City of Memphis and to the State of Tennessee, was instrumental in keeping St. Jude in Memphis in the mid-1980's when it was actively being recruited to relocate to another city; 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 commend the Boards of Directors and Governors, benefactors, administration, medical professionals, staff, and volunteers of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of this national resource and point of pride for Tennessee. We salute these dedicated professionals and stalwart volunteers who continue to work to improve treatments and find cures for childhood cancers and other catastrophic diseases.

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