

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1209

By West

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jason Allen on the occasion of the arboretum trail at Long Hunter State Park being named in his honor.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving our state parks for the pleasure and edification of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, a longtime member of Friends of Long Hunter State Park and a stalwart supporter of the park, Jason Allen is one such estimable citizen who assists others in appreciating the wonders of nature; and

WHEREAS, as a professional writer, Mr. Allen has spent a great deal of time at Long Hunter State Park during the past fifteen years, enjoying nature as he worked; and

WHEREAS, he has become very knowledgeable about the plants, animals, birds, reptiles, and geology of Long Hunter State Park and has volunteered his time on numerous occasions to work with the Park's seasonal interpreters, other park staff, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, three years ago, Jason Allen brought to the attention of park management that he had identified forty-four different trees growing along the two-mile Couchville Lake Trail and would like to look into having the trail designated as a certified arboretum; and

WHEREAS, after a great deal of time and effort spent working with a handful of volunteers, Mr. Allen and his friends labeled forty-four different trees, painted markers on the trail, and produced an interpretative booklet to provide additional information on the arboretum trail; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the trail was granted official arboretum status, a ribbon cutting was held, and the new arboretum was opened; and

WHEREAS, the arboretum trail has become a tremendous educational tool for school groups, Scouts, and individuals wanting to learn more about Long Hunter State Park; and

WHEREAS, Jason Allen is currently working with another group to establish an arboretum at Tim's Ford State Park; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Allen loves Long Hunter State Park and continues to spend time studying, photographing, and assisting others in enjoying and understanding the natural beauty of the Park; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his dedicated environmental and conservation efforts at Long Hunter State Park, the trail will officially be dedicated as the "Jason Allen Arboretum Trail" on June 12, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Jason Allen is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Jason Allen on the occasion of the arboretum trail at Long Hunter State Park being named in his honor, salute him for making the many natural wonders of our state parks more accessible and more comprehensible to his fellow citizens, and wish him all the best in his 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.