

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1449

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to commemorate World Elephant Day on August 12, 2024.

WHEREAS, elephants are the only remaining members of the Proboscidea order of mammals, the order that once included the woolly mammoth and the American mastodon; and

WHEREAS, elephants are a "keystone species"; if a keystone species disappears through extinction or removal, the entire ecosystem changes drastically, as other species rely on the keystone species for survival; and

WHEREAS, it is therefore imperative that measures be taken to raise awareness of the vital importance of these impressive, impactful gentle giants; and

WHEREAS, since 1995, The Elephant Sanctuary of Tennessee has provided refuge for thirty-three elephants who have retired from performance and exhibition; now encompassing more than 3,060 acres and three separate and protected natural habitats, the Sanctuary is home to twelve elephant residents, with room for more; and

WHEREAS, located in Hohenwald, the Sanctuary is a boon for this rural Tennessee area, providing not only career and internship opportunities but also volunteer experiences; the Sanctuary's Discovery Center offers hands-on, self-guided exhibits and educational programming for families, schools, and other interested parties, as well as distance learning online; and

WHEREAS, the current residents of The Elephant Sanctuary of Tennessee are African elephants Artie, Donna, Edie, Flora, Nosey, Sukari, and Tange, and Asian elephants Billie, Debbie, Minnie, Ronnie, and Sissy; they can be viewed live online through the Sanctuary's "EleCam"; and

WHEREAS, elephants are intelligent creatures with complex physical and social needs; in the wild, they form intricate family structures and grieve for their dead in a more-than-instinctive way, and they also show humor and express compassion; and

WHEREAS, many elephants that have spent their lives in captivity suffer long-term health and complex behavioral issues, such as tuberculosis, osteomyelitis, obesity, arthritis, and aggression; and

WHEREAS, The Elephant Sanctuary of Tennessee provides a safe haven and natural habitat dedicated solely to elephant well-being, focusing on individualized care and animal welfare standards that include nutrition, environment, health, behavior, and mental state; and

WHEREAS, it is our privilege to join with this important organization to raise awareness of the perils that face one of Earth's most regal creatures, as well as the important work being done to protect them; 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 commemorate World Elephant Day on August 12, 2024, a day when Tennesseans and people across the world are encouraged to learn more about elephants and the good work being done by The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee and elephant sanctuaries throughout the world.

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.