

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1460

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor East Port Marina & Resort and the DeVries family.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing a down-home business and its owners who have established a loyal customer base by treating everyone with respect and offering a quality product at a fair price; and

WHEREAS, East Port Marina and Resort may be the smallest marina on Dale Hollow Lake, but it is unquestionably an outstanding premier resort facility regardless of its size; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1965, East Port Marina & Resort was owned and operated by Richard and Wendy DeVries from 2007-2024; and

WHEREAS, a proud sponsor of PAWS of Dale Hollow, a local organization that provides adoption, foster care, and other services for animals in need, East Port Marina has become known as a pet friendly destination, catering to families with pets; the marina's restaurant, Fisher's Place, home of the "Best Cheeseburger on Dale Hollow Lake," is named after Nathan and Lee Ellen DeVries's beloved goldendoodle who passed away at the age of three; and

WHEREAS, Richard and Wendy DeVries have always been active in the community, sponsoring local high school fishing teams as members of the Overton, Pickett, and Fentress County Chambers of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Richard DeVries serves on the Board of Directors for the Pickett County Chamber and is President of the Dale Hollow Lake Marina Association, which publishes the *Dale Hollow Explorer*, a visitor guide that helps drive business toward communities around Dale Hollow Lake; and

WHEREAS, profits from the *Dale Hollow Explorer* are used to grant nine \$500 scholarships to assist students from five local high schools who are seeking to continue their education; and

WHEREAS, East Port Marina, under the ownership of the DeVries family, received the Synchrony Pillars Project Grant in 2022, as one of only ten small businesses recognized nationally for setting high standards for customer care and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, the high esteem in which the DeVries family and East Port Marina are held by the community is best demonstrated by its response to a hazardous storm in 2020 that caused the marina to break away and float downstream nearly fourteen miles away; and

WHEREAS, volunteers from the lake community quickly and generously donated their time to help return the stranded boats and docks and offered additional assistance, and

WHEREAS, Nathan and Lee Ellen DeVries have long been committed to the prosperity of East Port Marina & Resort; Nathan began working alongside his dad when he was only twelve years of age and even met his future wife there, when Lee Ellen began working at the marina at sixteen years of age; and

WHEREAS, both are now managers of East Port Marina & Resort and serve vacationers and local residents alike at their marina on Dale Hollow Lake, one of the most beautiful places in the entire world, and welcome them to the East Port family; 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 honor and commend Richard and Wendy DeVries on their exemplary seventeen-year tenure as the owners of East Port Marina & Resort and wish Nathan and Lee Ellen DeVries all the best as they take the reins of proprietorship.

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.