

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1470

By Moon

A RESOLUTION to recognize Washington Lodge No. 181 of the Free and Accepted Masons on the occasion of its 175th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should recognize those exemplary organizations that, through an abiding commitment to excellence, have contributed greatly to this State for many years; and

WHEREAS, one such notable organization is Washington Lodge No. 181 of the Free and Accepted Masons, which is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, an anniversary of this magnitude gives lodge members a chance to celebrate their long and distinguished history of charity and community service, reflect back with respect and reverence on the work, struggles, and accomplishments of those who have gone before them, and look toward the future with strength, confidence, and pride; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Tennessee of the Free and Accepted Masons was established across Tennessee on December 27, 1813, and stands as a testament to the enduring traditions of Freemasonry, promoting character development, moral integrity, and philanthropy among its members and in the broader community; and

WHEREAS, Washington Lodge No. 181 of the Free and Accepted Masons was originally chartered in Louisville on October 3, 1849, with the founding charter signed by Grand Master Robert L. Caruthers and Grand Secretary John Dashiell; the first officers were Worshipful Master John B. Cox, Senior Warden Samuel C. Cox, and Junior Warden Joshua Hays; and

WHEREAS, Washington Lodge No. 181 was named in honor of fellow mason and first president of the United States, George Washington, as a commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of his death; and

WHEREAS, during the Civil War, Washington Lodge had brothers to fight on both sides of the conflict, but at various times, the lodge would meet in harmony; and

WHEREAS, in 1916, the name of the lodge was changed from Washington Lodge No. 181 to George Washington Lodge No. 181; and

WHEREAS, George Washington Lodge No. 181 celebrated its 100th anniversary of the Lodge at the Louisville School in 1949; and

WHEREAS, money was raised for the construction of a new lodge in the 1970s; built by its members, the newly constructed lodge was opened in 1980 and is still in use to this day; and

WHEREAS, exemplifying the spirit of benevolence and compassion that Freemasonry embodies, George Washington Lodge No. 181 has long engaged in various charitable roles in the community; it is a strong supporter of the Widows and Orphans Fund, the Scottish Rite Shoe distribution, the Shrine Paper Sale, and the York Rite Charities; and

WHEREAS, the members of George Washington Lodge No. 181 of the Free and Accepted Masons have dedicated themselves to laudable acts that have assisted countless individuals and have made a positive impact on their community and on this State as a whole, and they should be formally recognized on this special occasion; 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 the members, both past and present, of George Washington Lodge No. 181 of the Free and Accepted Masons for their dedication to public service, congratulate them on the lodge's 175th anniversary, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in all their 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.