

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7001

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to recognize Mary Hance on the occasion of her retirement from the *Tennessean*.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize an esteemed newsperson who has made an honest effort to help her readers save money, have a good laugh, and partake of inexpensive experiences; and

WHEREAS, Mary Hance of the *Tennessean*, known to her readers as Ms. Cheap, recently took her well-deserved retirement, bringing to a close an impressive forty-five-year career in print journalism; and

WHEREAS, in her Ms. Cheap column, Mary Hance wrote about her quest for a good bargain and interviewed resourceful people about simple ways to make the most of their money, whether by attending a free event, taking advantage of a good sale, or finding a creative way to do more with less; and

WHEREAS, when Ms. Cheap launched at the *Nashville Banner* in March 1994, Ms. Hance's editors wondered if the occasional column on frugality was sustainable in the long-term, but readers' positive feedback convinced them to make the column a permanent addition to their lineup; and

WHEREAS, the column debuted in the business section with the headline "10 things you can do to save \$100 this year"; it later moved to the living section and expanded to three columns per week. When the *Banner* closed in 1998, Mary Hance and the Ms. Cheap column moved to the *Tennessean*; and

WHEREAS, over the course of more than 4,000 columns, Mary Hance amplified her readers' ideas and tips so others could benefit from their wisdom and stretch their hard-earned dollars; the column remained popular throughout the years because no matter people's status in life, they want to feel like they got more than their money's worth; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hance's philosophy on money is that people must be willing to scrimp and save in some areas in order to have the funds to spend on more important things; to be cheap is to be a good steward of your money, which allows you to give generously; and

WHEREAS, to that end, she is most proud of the Ms. Cheap Penny Drive, which raised more than \$1.3 million in twelve years for Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mary Hance's illustrious career in journalism began in January 1976 when she joined the *Nashville Banner* as an entry-level copy clerk; she rose through the ranks, covering the police beat, courts, and Metro Nashville government. She covered a visit from former President Richard Nixon, interviewed Walker Percy, and interacted with Roy Acuff and Chubby Checker, and she traveled to New York to cover the Fisk Jubilee Singers' performance at Carnegie Hall and to Washington, D.C., to spend a day with then-Postmaster General Marvin Runyon; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her many successes, she is grateful for the love and support she shares with her husband, whom she met at the *Nashville Banner*, and her daughters, who grew up in newsrooms; and

WHEREAS, Mary Hance exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Mary Hance reminded readers that nothing is a bargain unless you need it; don't spend money you don't have; and, of course, cheap is not a dirty word—and we are all better for it; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Mary Hance our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement from the *Tennessean* and every continued success in her 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.