

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7014

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Beverly "Bev" Elaine Johnson of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Beverly "Bev" Elaine Johnson, who has distinguished herself as a citizen of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, born in Memphis, Ms. Johnson is the daughter of William Van Johnson and Julia Atlas Danner Johnson; she attended Ann Arbor Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan, graduating in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature in 1975 from Rust College, Master of Science degree in Educational/Media Technology in 1979 from Jackson State University, and a certification degree in substance abuse counseling from Southwest Tennessee Community College in 2003, as well as a certification in drug court counseling from the Drug Court Institute in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, beginning her forty-seven-year career in broadcasting in 1976 at WJSU Radio, she would go on to work for WOKJ, WJMI, and WKXI in Jackson, Mississippi, as a disc jockey, programming assistant, public affairs director, and news director; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson continued her radio journey in Memphis, Tennessee, at WLOK, WMQM, WWEE/WLVS, and finally WDIA Radio, where she has been employed for four decades and is in the thirty-sixth year of her eponymous *The Bev Johnson Show*; and

WHEREAS, apart from her work in broadcasting, she is a former board member of The Rock N Soul Museum, Memphis Area Planned Parenthood, National Black Programmers Coalition, and Memphis City Beautiful; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson commits her time and talents to the service of her community, and she has been a mentor for the Gordon Elementary School girls' program, chairperson for the NAACP's Annual Radiothon, and auctioneer for WKNO Television's Action Auction and the Memphis Chapter Coalition of 100 Black Women, in addition to being a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a charter member of the Shelby County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to recognition, she has been awarded the News/Public Affairs Director by the National Black Programmers Coalition four times, UNCF Outstanding Alumnus Award, National Association of Broadcasters Marconi Award Personality of the Year Nominee three times, *Billboard* Personality of the Year, and the Trailblazer Award from the City of Memphis, in addition to being honored by the Tennessee General Assembly House of Representatives, Memphis City Council, Shelby County Commission, and the United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson was inducted into the History Makers Media Division in 2014 and the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame in 2019, and her oral history is housed in the Library of Congress; and

WHEREAS, a woman of abiding faith, she is a member of Mt. Pisgah C.M.E. Church; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson is a co-collaborator with Heart 2 Heart Counseling Services, former radio instructor at Rust College for eight years, and current speech and English instructor at Southwest Tennessee Community College, where she has taught for thirty-two years; and

WHEREAS, Bev Johnson epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and she should be specially recognized for her many accomplishments and devoted work; 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 Beverly "Bev" Elaine Johnson for her selfless service to her fellow citizens and extend to her our best wishes for continued success and happiness in all 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.