

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 8016

By Helton

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the citizens of East Ridge upon the 100th anniversary of the city's incorporation.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should join with the municipalities that comprise this great State in celebrating joyous and historic occasions; and

WHEREAS, the City of East Ridge observed its 100th anniversary as an incorporated city on April 4, 2021, and celebrated its centennial with a festive event at Camp Jordan Park on September 25, 2021; and

WHEREAS, from humble beginnings as an agricultural area in the early 20th century, the eight square miles that is East Ridge has reinvented itself into a thriving place of commerce on the Georgia state line and is known as "The Gateway to Tennessee"; and

WHEREAS, the City of East Ridge was built by pioneering families who wished to retain full autonomy from their neighboring city to the west, Chattanooga, and the 21,000 residents of East Ridge have long retained a spirit of independence and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, East Ridge distinguished itself in the early 1950s as the home of Osborne Shopping Center, the first open-air mall in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, East Ridge residents still remember and revere Loveman's, Robert Hall, The Rebel Drive-in, The Burger House, McCardle's Tik-Tok Restaurant, Eidson's, Stone Brothers, Kingwood Pharmacy, and the East Ridge Youth Foundation Pool; and

WHEREAS, the City of East Ridge was built on the backs of families whose names were memorialized by the names of public streets in East Ridge, including Tombras, Belvoir, Mack Smith, and McBrien; and

WHEREAS, let it never be forgotten that over the past 100 years, young men and women from East Ridge have stepped up to defend their city, the United States, and the American way of life, making the ultimate sacrifice on foreign shores during times of war; and

WHEREAS, realizing that these men and women are owed a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid, the citizens of East Ridge will never forget their sacrifice, and the city has dedicated memorials to the fallen at East Ridge City Hall and Pioneer Frontier playground; and

WHEREAS, when the City of East Ridge encountered setbacks during difficult economic times, with storefronts falling into disrepair, the indomitable spirit of its 21,000 inhabitants never wavered; and

WHEREAS, the city's leaders saw the future of East Ridge in the great State of Tennessee's Border Region Act and swiftly secured their city's place in future redevelopment by helping acquire State-owned land adjacent to Camp Jordan Park that was transformed into Jordan Crossing, a retail and hospitality development that is now home to Bass Pro Shops, Top Golf, Buddy's BBQ, Chik-fil-A, Jonathan's, and Starbucks, among others; and

WHEREAS, the 250-acre Camp Jordan Park, once home to a National Guard Cavalry Unit, has become a premier sporting and recreational area for the entire Southeastern region and an asset not only to East Ridge but the entire State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, city leaders worked with Chattanooga Red Wolves SC to locate its U.S. League One professional soccer club in East Ridge; through a unique and vibrant public/private cooperative project with East Ridge, the Red Wolves organization will provide young people throughout the region an opportunity to develop their football skills at the state-of-the-art practice facility it is building within the confines of Camp Jordan Park; and

WHEREAS, the people of East Ridge fondly recall their past 100 years of Pioneering Progress as they look to the future with confidence and clarity that the best days in East Ridge

are still ahead; they ask for God's blessings and trust that their grandchildren's grandchildren will celebrate the bicentennial of East Ridge with Pioneer Pride; and

WHEREAS, today, the City of East Ridge is ably led by Mayor Brian Williams, Vice Mayor Mike Chauncey, Councilmember Esther Helton, Councilmember Andrea Witt, and Councilmember Jacky Cagle; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor this fine community and its citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; 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 honor and congratulate the citizens of East Ridge upon the celebration of the 100th anniversary of their city's incorporation and extend to them our best wishes for continued success, growth, and prosperity in their outstanding community.

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.