

HOUSE RESOLUTION 22

By Jernigan

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Donelson Gateway Project on the occasion of its tenth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize those worthy nonprofit organizations that endeavor to improve their communities through focused volunteer efforts; and

WHEREAS, one such organization is the Donelson Gateway Project, a nonprofit dedicated to civic beautification efforts throughout the Donelson community and a commendable organization that is this year celebrating its tenth anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the organization can trace its inception back to a comment from concerned citizen Jane Eakes, who spoke to District 15 Council Candidate Phil Claiborne regarding the lackluster aesthetics of the Donelson area, particularly at the Briley Parkway interchange; and

WHEREAS, upon election to the Metro Council, Mr. Claiborne proceeded to spearhead what would become the Donelson Gateway Project, recruiting a knowledgeable and resourceful team of volunteers and connecting with business and civic organizations throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, for the inaugural project at the Briley Parkway interchange site, Phil Claiborne enlisted the help of Virginia Clark and then State Representative Ben West; the response to the proposed project was overwhelmingly positive, with thirty-five community members in attendance at the organizational meeting; and

WHEREAS, the project was a superb success, adorning the once-desolate spot with maples, knockout roses, Tennessee irises, crepe myrtles, and various other flora that vastly improved the aesthetics of the area, much to the delight of the hard-working volunteers and passersby; and

WHEREAS, efforts were made early on by Mr. Claiborne to reach out to the Donelson Public Library to ascertain how the Donelson Gateway Project might contribute to improving the library grounds; once a plan was proposed and then approved by the library board, volunteers planted flowers and shrubs in the area in front of the library, brightening it with lush purples and vibrant hues of red and green; and

WHEREAS, since its early initiatives, the Donelson Gateway Project has expanded to include a second gateway entrance from the east near the Stones River bridge and an arboretum on city-owned property at Lebanon Road and Stewart's Ferry Pike, known as the Tollgate Preserve; and

WHEREAS, committed to improving the environs of local schools, the Donelson Gateway Project has conducted plantings at Two Rivers Middle School, McGavock Middle School, and Hickman Elementary School; most recently, the organization raised funds to underwrite a \$12,000 landscaping project at McGavock High School; and

WHEREAS, the Donelson Gateway Project continues to thrive, thanks to the enthusiasm of its board members, the generosity of local businesses and organizations, and the commitment of community volunteers; and

WHEREAS, a poster organization for the planning, execution, and maintenance of beautification projects, the Donelson Gateway Project remains a volunteer effort that is primarily staffed by a ten-person board, many of whom are founding members; and

WHEREAS, with its decade of fruitful service to the Donelson area, the Donelson Gateway Project is a testament to what community members can accomplish through stalwart leadership and a concerted volunteer effort; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate the Donelson Gateway Project on a decade of sterling service to the Donelson community, wishing the organization much success in all its 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.