

HOUSE RESOLUTION 72

By Thompson

A RESOLUTION to honor Jimmy Ogle for his many contributions as Shelby County Historian.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body take great pleasure in recognizing a gentleman who has brought Memphis history alive for the multitudes through his encyclopedic knowledge of and genuine affection for the subject; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Ogle, a native and true son of Memphis, has served with distinction as Shelby County Historian since March 24, 2014; however, he was an eager student and gifted teacher of local history long before this honor was conferred upon him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ogle has created thirty-two distinct walking tours on Memphis history; the tours are free to the public, and he doesn't mind that he receives no compensation for conducting them because they are a labor of love; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ogle's tours explore both the main roads and byways of Memphis history and educate the public about the famous, infamous, little-known, and forgotten landmarks, icons, milestones, and architectural wonders that populate the Bluff City; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Ogle has chronicled 157 distinct designs for manhole covers in Memphis, and he can precisely identify the window through which Tom Cruise jumped in the film version of *The Firm*; and

WHEREAS, in view of his extensive knowledge, there is little wonder that Mr. Ogle feels that Memphis tells the story of American history like no other city; and

WHEREAS, Memphis is indeed ranked sixth in the nation in National Register of Historic Places listings, but only recently has the city begun to appropriately recognize the contributions of women, people of color, Native Americans, and others through such projects as the Women's History Trail, which Mr. Ogle is helping to develop; and

WHEREAS, in his professional life, Mr. Ogle has served as deputy director of the Memphis Park Commission and in management or program positions with the Mud Island River Park, the Memphis Queen Line riverboat company, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum, and others; and

WHEREAS, he has also served as either the chief or associate duck master at The Peabody for years; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, Jimmy Ogle was a basketball star at Memphis University School and at Southwestern University at Memphis, where he still holds the school record for most points scored in a game by a freshman with twenty-nine; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ogle is leaving the Bluff City to reside in Knoxville to be near his son and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, before his departure for East Tennessee, he plans to share his expertise, experiences, and files with potential successors to his throne, but Mr. Ogle and his unique personality, boundless enthusiasm, and incredible vitality are truly irreplaceable; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Ogle has devoted a large part of his life to stimulating the public's interest in Memphis history, and he is worthy of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Jimmy Ogle for his many contributions to preserving and promoting Memphis history as Shelby County Historian and through his walking tours, extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness in Knoxville, and encourage him to visit his hometown as often as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.