

HOUSE RESOLUTION 97

By Sparks

A RESOLUTION to recognize Pastor Shane E. Kastler of Lake Charles, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, from time to time the members of this legislative body specially recognize those estimable authors who have utilized their talent as gifted writers and their interest in the past by writing about the history of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Shane E. Kastler of Heritage Baptist Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana, is one such individual, who, in addition to his ministerial duties, is a published author, newspaper columnist, and former radio show host in Southwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, a native of Oklahoma, Pastor Kastler received his Master of Divinity degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree at Northeastern State University, and obtained an Associate of Science degree in Electromechanics from Northeast Oklahoma A&M College; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Kastler's writing talent has been shared with the public in his capacity as the weekly newspaper columnist of "Seeking Higher Ground," as a contributing columnist to *Target Liberty* and the *Economic Policy Journal*, and as an author of book reviews for the *San Francisco Review of Books*; and

WHEREAS, he has also contributed articles to The Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity, the Mises Institute, *World Net Daily*, the *Baton Rouge Advocate*, and *LewRockwell.com*; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Kastler is also the author of a published biography of native Tennessean and Civil War General Nathan Bedford Forrest entitled, *Nathan Bedford Forrest's Redemption*; and

WHEREAS, admired during his lifetime, General Nathan Bedford Forrest is viewed by some as a Civil War Hero - a military genius and cavalry leader who rose from the enlisted ranks to become a general for the Confederacy - and reviled by others as the father of the Ku Klux Klan; and

WHEREAS, according to Pastor Kastler's book, *Nathan Bedford Forrest's Redemption*, at the end of his life, General Forrest started attending church and advocated for black civil rights while living in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, born in 1821 near Chapel Hill, Nathan Bedford Forrest came from a poor family; a self-made man, he made a fortune as a slave trader, planter, and speculator. A wizard of the saddle, he purportedly had twenty-nine horses shot out from underneath him during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, a leader in the earliest iteration of the Ku Klux Klan, General Forrest is not considered the founder of the organization by most historians but was elected the organization's first Grand Wizard, the highest possible leadership post. Historians all agree that he eventually left the group and renounced its racist actions; and

WHEREAS, to truly know the history of Tennessee and its people, it is important for all Tennesseans to reflect upon all of our State's past, to learn our shared history, to understand the courage and sacrifices of those who came before us, to gain insight from our mistakes and successes, and to understand that the lessons learned yesterday and today will carry us forward if we thoughtfully and earnestly strive to understand and appreciate our heritage and the opportunities that lie before us; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this body welcome Pastor Shane E. Kastler to Tennessee and recognize his contribution to the history of our State on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we specially recognize Pastor Shane E. Kastler of Lake Charles, Louisiana, honor his many writing accomplishments

and his contribution to Tennessee history, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success in all his 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.