

HOUSE RESOLUTION 156

By Holt

A RESOLUTION to honor the Gleason Woman's Club on 100 years of service.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body specially recognize those exemplary clubs and organizations that are comprised of concerned citizens who are dedicated to improving the quality of life in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable organization that evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all its endeavors is the Gleason Woman's Club, which is celebrating 100 years of meritorious service; and

WHEREAS, established in 1914, in a small town in West Tennessee, the Gleason Woman's Club was formed at a time when our Nation was confronted with the encroachment of World War I; and

WHEREAS, the club would find important meaning early in its development, when just three years after its establishment many of our Nation's men, including the sons and brothers of club members, joined in the bloodshed of the war transpiring overseas; and

WHEREAS, 100 years later, the Gleason Woman's Club still thrives, having outlasted a second World War, as well as the wars that brought our Nation's brave soldiers into Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and more recent battles in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, the Gleason Woman's Club participates in various service projects to honor our armed forces, one of which is the initiative to send gift boxes to military personnel stationed abroad. The club also maintains Tennessee and U.S. flags at three separate entrances into Gleason as a testament to their patriotism; and

WHEREAS, the club has maintained a membership of just eighteen women for most of its existence, and, much like the Supreme Court, membership only changes when a member moves away or passes on; and

WHEREAS, current officers of the Gleason Woman's Club include Pam Belew, president; Ann Jonak, vice president; Peggy Floyd, treasurer; Julia Fowler, reporter; and Martha Crews, a fairly recent inductee who serves as the group's secretary; and

WHEREAS, though the demographic of the group has grown older, the club still meets once a month with two members acting as hostesses and serving the women a noonday meal. The club also conducts a business meeting, in which upcoming projects are discussed, and recites a poem titled "The Collect" that highlights the group's Christian ideals; and

WHEREAS, the Gleason Woman's Club has been active in Gleason's civic engagement, having supported the Gleason Library from its inception by conducting fundraisers to pay for costs ranging from the salary of the librarian to rent on the original building. The club continued this routine until the City of Gleason was able to assume responsibility for the library's funding. Still, the Gleason Woman's Club supports the library whenever it can; and

WHEREAS, other early projects undertaken by the Gleason Woman's Club include the upkeep of the Hopewell Cemetery and ongoing Gleason beautification projects. The club helped finance the purchase of Gleason's vintage downtown lighting arrangement, maintains the downtown landscaping, and, with the help of the Gleason Gazelles, decorates the city's Gazebo. The club also oversaw a project to name a downtown park area after the city's original name, Oakwood Place; and

WHEREAS, a frequent contributor to charitable causes, the Gleason Woman's Club raises money through membership fees and fundraisers, such as its cake sales at the Hometown Christmas Auction. Organizations that benefit from the club's work include the Weakley County Backpack Program, We Care's Second Harvest, Relay for Life, The Carl Perkins Center, and the Sadie Saves Epi-Pen and AED programs; and

WHEREAS, a group founded on the premise of strong Christian values, the club makes it a tradition for each club member to donate to their respective church's Christmas food basket, with churches currently receiving these donations including the First Baptist Church, Church of Christ, First Methodist Church, and Tumbling Creek Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the City of Gleason honored the Gleason Woman's Club for its innumerable contributions by recognizing the group as one of the Grand Marshals and Servants of Tatertown in its legendary Tatertown Parade; a plaque in their honor resides in Gleason's City Hall; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Gleason Woman's Club are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State and should be especially recognized on the occasion of celebrating 100 years of service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join the members of the Gleason Woman's Club in celebrating the group's 100 years of dedicated service, commend them on ten decades of contribution to the Gleason community, this State, and our Nation, and wish them much continued success in their 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.