

HOUSE RESOLUTION 309

By Holsclaw

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Virginia Taylor Laws on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Taylor Laws will celebrate her 100th birthday on June 3, 2020, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Laws has lived an amazing life and has experienced firsthand the breadth and span of American history; and

WHEREAS, an Elizabethton native, Virginia Laws was born on June 3, 1920, to Burchell Rhudy and Corrie Ella Fielder Taylor; she was raised in Elizabethton with her younger siblings, Mary Etta, Patricia Ann, and Robert Burchell; and

WHEREAS, on January 3, 1939, Virginia Taylor was joined in marriage with Ernest LeRoy Laws, and the couple's blessed union produced three children, Phyllis Ann, Richard Allen, and Ernest LeRoy, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Laws were lovingly married for forty-three years; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Laws served with acumen and alacrity throughout her professional career. During World War II, she and her young family moved to Washington, D.C., where she worked for the U.S. Department of Commerce, compiling data for the U.S. Census Bureau; she later accepted a position at the U.S. Department of Treasury in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing; and

WHEREAS, in the early days of the Korean War, the Laws family moved to Fort Devens in Massachusetts and later to Camp Drum in New York, where Mrs. Laws continued to work to help support her family and her country; and

WHEREAS, as the war ended, Virginia Laws and her family returned to Elizabethton, and she was recruited to spearhead the business department of Milligan College. While embracing the demands of her new role, Mrs. Laws recognized that her love and desire for higher education still beckoned; and

WHEREAS, she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from Milligan College, graduating *magna cum laude*; in addition, she earned a Master of Arts degree from East Tennessee State University and was conferred a professorship at Milligan College, where she taught for seventeen years and was highly respected by her peers and her students alike; and

WHEREAS, with a boundless sense of wonder, Mrs. Laws delights in the joy and discovery of travel. While her contemporaries were retiring, she aspired to see the world; she caravanned and camped her way across Europe, experienced the majesty of the United States, traversed the British Isles, visited the sacred sites of Israel, marveled at the vastness of Russia and the Nordic beauty of Scandinavia, sailed along the New England coast, basked in the Caribbean Sea, cruised through the Panama Canal, and was awestruck by the wilds of Alaska, and she continues to cultivate her curiosity and penchant for new experiences; and

WHEREAS, with faith as her cornerstone and her steadfast companion, Virginia Laws serves her church and community by volunteering her time and efforts to a myriad of ecumenical, civic, educational, and social organizations, and she quietly supports the needs of missionaries around the world and those in need close to home. In 2004, the First Christian Church in Elizabethton honored her for her enduring commitment to teaching the Fidelias Sunday School class for fifty years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Laws is vibrant and dynamic and finds immense delight in the rich splendor of life. She continues to tend to her idyllic English garden, is an avid reader and eager scholar, thrills in taking in a show at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia, relishes the opportunity to travel and embrace new adventures, rejoices in the change of seasons, and graciously welcomes friends and family into her home; and

WHEREAS, throughout her extraordinary life, she has created an estimable legacy for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, as Virginia Laws gracefully enters her eleventh decade, she is still an active and productive member of society who is admired for her wisdom, spirit of generosity, integrity, distinguished service, and her enthusiasm for life; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Virginia Taylor Laws on the celebration of her 100th birthday and extend to her our best wishes for many happy returns of the day.

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