

HOUSE RESOLUTION 365

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to commend WLOK radio for honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable locally owned and operated radio stations that have served as important community cultural institutions; and

WHEREAS, radio station WLOK in Memphis is one such vital station that has provided its listeners with outstanding service and programming for thirty-three years; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1977, Gilliam Communication's WLOK was Memphis's first African-American owned radio station and has been designated as a Tennessee Historical Landmark because of its longstanding record of community service, as well as its considerable historical importance; and

WHEREAS, with its motto: A Family Tradition, WLOK provides cutting edge local, state, and national news, as well as the very best spiritually uplifting and traditional inspirational music to its stable, mature, loyal, church-going audience; and

WHEREAS, consistently ranking among the top radio stations in the River City, WLOK more than adequately blankets the Memphis market, with the Metro audience receiving a strong signal twenty-four hours a day; and

WHEREAS, WLOK features a family-oriented format on which many of the nation's top African-American leaders have appeared and several of the nation's leading disc jockeys launched their careers; and

WHEREAS, operating in a distinctive Bible-belt market, WLOK understands that the Church is the central fiber of the African-American community and is proud of its longstanding

relationships with the Memphis Baptist Ministerial Association, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the religious community at-large; and

WHEREAS, known as one of the most community-conscious radio stations in Memphis, WLOK has received innumerable awards for service to the Memphis community and hosts a wide assortment of special features, including the Martin Luther King Commemoration, Weekly Positive Achievers Salute, Black History Month Salute, Mother's Day Promotion, Father's Day Promotion, and the renowned WLOK Stone Soul Picnic; and

WHEREAS, the owners and employees of WLOK are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend WLOK Radio for providing thirty-three years of outstanding broadcasting to its faithful listeners and salute WLOK's lasting contributions to the radio industry of Memphis and beyond.

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