

SENATE BILL 118

By Ketron

AN ACT to designate an official Tennessee War of 1812  
Bicentennial Commission.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes pride in those organizations and institutions that are dedicated to preserving and interpreting Tennessee history for present and future generations, thus exercising the heritage of the Volunteer State as a living educational tool; and

WHEREAS, one such worthy group is the working committee, chaired by the Tennessee State Museum's Myers Brown, that has been planning War of 1812 Bicentennial events and activities for Tennessee during the past two years; and

WHEREAS, this committee includes representatives from all relevant Tennessee historical organizations, including the Hermitage, Tennessee Historical Society, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Tennessee Wars Commission, and the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation; and

WHEREAS, due to the hard work of the committee the Tennessee State Museum's War of 1812 Bicentennial exhibit opened in March 2012; and

WHEREAS, another event in which the committee played an important role is the Natchez Trace Parkway's first War of 1812 Bicentennial event which was held at the Gordon House on May 26-27, 2012, with over 150 re-enactors from across the nation in attendance; and

WHEREAS, the War of 1812 is a crucial element in Tennessee's history because it was during that war that we became known as the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans bravely enlisted in response to Governor William Blount's call for volunteers during the War of 1812, with many of them serving valiantly under General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, General Jackson's dynamic victory against the "bloody British" at the Battle of New Orleans fueled an already ascendant nationalism, even as it secured America's maritime rights against British interference; and

WHEREAS, often referred to as the Second War of Independence, the War of 1812, which resulted from Britain's continued interference with American trade, its attacks on American ships, and its illegal impressments of American seaman, ended with Britain realizing that the U.S. was not just a "lost colony" that could be summarily punished, but was rather a sovereign nation with great military force that had to be dealt with on equal terms; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly desires to raise public awareness about the mission of the working committee, in order to focus Tennesseans' attention on the historical and cultural significance of the War of 1812; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The working committee chaired by the Tennessee State Museum's Myers Brown is hereby designated an official Tennessee War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission in recognition of its members' meticulous planning and hard work in commemorating the War of 1812 Bicentennial.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.