

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Tom Lee's heroism.

WHEREAS, on May 8, 1925, the *M.E. Norman* set sail from Memphis with seventy-two men, women, and children onboard; and

WHEREAS, the trip to Pinckney Landing, two miles downriver of Memphis, passed without incident; however, the boat ran into trouble on the return trip when the steamer capsized and its passengers were tossed into the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, Tom Lee, who was passing by the scene, courageously rescued thirty-two of the passengers from the Mississippi River, despite his not being able to swim; and

WHEREAS, Tom Lee was duly recognized for his heroic act and awarded a job as a sanitation worker; the Engineers Club purchased his home in Memphis, and he was celebrated at the White House by President Calvin Coolidge; and

WHEREAS, Astor Park in Memphis was renamed Tom Lee Park in 1954, and in 1991, the park was expanded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and

WHEREAS, a century ago, Tom Lee heroically answered the call of duty amid the frigid waters of the Mississippi River, sacrificing his own well-being and saving the lives of thirty-two of his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, we should never allow Tennesseans such as Tom Lee and their courageous deeds to be forgotten for their actions speak loudly and persuasively about the inner fortitude, virtue, and selflessness of human beings in times of emergency and remind us that heroes will always walk among us, no matter where or when we live; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and commemorate the 100th anniversary of Tom Lee's heroism in rescuing thirty-two individuals from the Mississippi River on May 8, 1925.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.