

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 23

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to recognize Plum Nelly on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those historic Tennessee businesses that have a long-standing commitment to providing exceptional service to their customers; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable entity is Plum Nelly of Chattanooga, which celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year, a commendable milestone for this business with a storied history; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Fannie Mennen, a skilled artist, businesswoman, and local teacher, began to host the Plum Nelly clothesline art show on her remote property in order to show off her prints of Appalachian beauty; the first show attracted thirty other artists and featured paintings, jewelry, woodcarvings, prints, pottery, weavings, and other art; and

WHEREAS, the art show drew visitors to Chattanooga from Nashville; Birmingham, Alabama; and Atlanta, Georgia, becoming a locus of culture and tourism that brightened the community of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, as the show continued to endear itself to the community, a puppet show began to be performed for children, and food was provided by the New Salem Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, the cultural impact of these shows is still felt and seen in the fabric of Chattanooga life through the recurrence of pottery and paintings found once at the original Plum Nelly, the concrete mushrooms of artist Josie Sibold that continue to adorn gardens being only one example; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mennen eventually decided to focus on her artwork full time and ended the Plum Nelly art shows, but she and her sister Celia Marks, along with Cornelia Bradshaw and Liz Phillips, opened the Plum Nelly Shop in Chattanooga proper in 1972; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Joy and Jim Storey then purchased the vibrant business and moved it to another location, followed by another and final move in 2006 under its third owner Beth Gunn, so now, the store rests on Frazier Avenue in the hands of Catharine Daniels, marking her as the fourth generation of female owners that Plum Nelly has flourished under; and

WHEREAS, Plum Nelly still serves as a hotbed of creativity and ingenious design for the citizens of Chattanooga and bears the torch of inspiration that was lit more than fifty years ago by its founder Fannie Mennen; and

WHEREAS, for five decades, Plum Nelly has been providing its community with a much-appreciated outlet for local artists and art lovers from far and wide, and it is fitting that the business be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we congratulate Plum Nelly on fifty years of operation, wishing the iconic Tennessee business much continued success in the future.

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.