

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 35

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend James Story, 2020  
Gallatin Citizen of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly salute those citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is James Story, who was recently named the 2020 Gallatin Citizen of the Year, an honor most befitting his many years of selfless service to his community; and

WHEREAS, for more than four decades, Gallatin resident and retired educator James Story has shared his passion for music with countless students and others across Sumner County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Story came on board with Sumner County Schools in 1977, teaching band and chorus in White House before transitioning to Gallatin High School; and

WHEREAS, James Story was highly esteemed in his field, such that Volunteer State Community College tapped him to help develop a music education and recording industry program in 1997; he remained on staff at the college from that time until his retirement from teaching in June 2018; and

WHEREAS, in March 2020, Mr. Story was admitted to TriStar Hendersonville Medical Center after his initial diagnosis with COVID-19; while there, he spent fifteen days on a ventilator before being transferred to another facility in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to connect with and inform others, James Story took to social media to share his journey as it was unfolding; he portrayed his own struggles as well as those of the healthcare professionals taking care of him and so many others; and

WHEREAS, because his diagnosis was early on in the pandemic, Mr. Story was able to provide much-needed insight and a human narrative that situated the struggles of the pandemic in the personal realm, giving a face and a name to something that, at that point, seemed to be happening elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, ultimately, he would spend seventy-one days at three different area hospitals before being released from Sumner Regional Medical Center in Gallatin on May 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as he exited the building, Mr. Story was greeted by a group of well-wishers that included former students and choir members from Gallatin First United Methodist Church; together they sang "Oh Happy Day," and the video of that performance has been viewed more than 114,000 times on *Gallatin News*' Facebook page; and

WHEREAS, James Story's battle with COVID-19 has reached people across the world; in addition to his social media outreach, including his membership in a survivors' support group, his near-death experience was featured on Christian Broadcasting Network; and

WHEREAS, even through a harrowing battle with a novel virus that overtook the world, James Story found a way to serve and to once again fulfill his true calling of teaching others; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Story epitomizes the spirit and commitment to the noble precepts of public service that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud James Story for his remarkable record of service to Sumner County and this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend James Story on being named the 2020

Gallatin Citizen of the Year and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

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.