

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 51

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate the citizens of the City of Johnson City upon the occasion of the city's 150th anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those estimable cities that are celebrating significant milestones in their histories; and

WHEREAS, one such notable city is the City of Johnson City, the citizens of which will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the city's founding on December 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, during its first election on January 3, 1870, sixty registered voters unanimously elected entrepreneur Henry Johnson, owner of the city's first commercial business, to serve as the city's first mayor; and

WHEREAS, the city's first major industry, Watauga Tannery, was established in November 1883, covering 130 acres and employing as many as 300 men. Business continues to thrive today, as evidenced by the city's largest employer, Ballad Health, which employs more than 14,000 people; a diverse economy that includes national and regional companies; and countless small businesses that embrace the entrepreneurial spirit of Henry Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Johnson City saw exponential growth following the opening of the Mountain Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in 1903; now known as the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center, it is a National Historic Landmark that serves 170,000 veterans in a forty-one-county area, spanning Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, education became a cornerstone of Johnson City in 1911 when the teacher-training institute East Tennessee State Normal School was founded. Known today as East Tennessee State University, the fourth-largest university in the State of Tennessee also includes the highly regarded Quillen College of Medicine and Gatton College of Pharmacy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Johnson City, which commenced its sesquicentennial on January 3, 2019, has become a thriving community of more than 66,000 residents with city limits expanded to more than forty-three square miles; and

WHEREAS, Senator Rusty Crowe has been Johnson City's longest-serving senator, elected in 1990; and

WHEREAS, on this milestone occasion, it is fitting that we recognize and honor the City of Johnson City and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the citizens of the City of Johnson City upon the celebration of the city's 150th anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for continued success and prosperity 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.