

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 70

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, more than four centuries ago, Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto looked out over the Mississippi River and sought to explore the lush forests and grasslands that would become Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, hunting, fishing, and good growing conditions had brought many Native American tribes such as the Cherokee, Shawnee, Creek, Chickasaw, and Choctaw to the mountains, valleys, and grasslands; and

WHEREAS, as colonies and towns were being established along the Eastern seaboard, hearty pioneers blazed trails into what would become Tennessee, settling the Watauga area, founding the town of Jonesborough, and eventually establishing the State of Franklin; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 1796, President George Washington signed the bill that made Tennessee the sixteenth state in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the name "Tennessee" is derived from a Native American word, Tanasi, and is attributed to the Yuchi, predecessors of the Cherokee; and

WHEREAS, in our first one hundred years, Tennessee led the way in the areas of leadership, bravery, and perseverance; this great State served as a home to three U.S. Presidents, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson, all of whom led this country in times crucial to the preservation of our union; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans demonstrated their patriotism and fortitude when we sent more than our quota of volunteers to assist our nation's defense effort in the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, thus earning our State the proud sobriquet, "The Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has played a significant role in the battles of our great nation; tales of bravery and heroism have been written in Tennessee, as the State was home to more Civil War battles than any other state except Virginia; and

WHEREAS, upon the cessation of the Civil War, Tennessee was the first State to be re-admitted to the union and resumed her tremendous growth as commerce, industry, and agriculture rapidly developed; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 1897, at the Centennial Exhibition in Nashville, Tennessee took time to celebrate what she had achieved during her first one hundred years and looked forward to continuing development over the years to come; and

WHEREAS, in the subsequent century, Tennessee led the nation in numerous technological advances, such as the development of the Oak Ridge National Laboratories in the 1940s, which earned Tennessee recognition as a pioneer in nuclear technology; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has been a national leader in various social issues, including the Civil Rights Movement and the ratification of the 19th Amendment, as the Volunteer State was the deciding State to give women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has played an instrumental role in the growth and development of American popular music: Memphis is the birthplace of the blues and the cradle of rhythm and blues, jazz, and rock and roll; Nashville is Music City U.S.A. and the home of country music and the Grand Ole Opry; and the hills of East Tennessee have been a seminal influence in Appalachian folk music, including the traditional form of bluegrass; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2021, the State of Tennessee will proudly celebrate its 225th anniversary as a part of the United States of America; as we joyously celebrate, it is important that we remember the panoramic history of our great State; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that upon this 225th anniversary, we take time to reflect on the proud heritage and many accomplishments of the Volunteer State on this special occasion; 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 commemorate the 225th anniversary of the State of Tennessee and join with our fellow Tennesseans in taking pride in remembering the great history and traditions of our State.

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.