

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 93

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to recognize the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* upon the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, Chattanooga's only daily newspaper, has established itself as one of the leading periodicals across this State and nation; and

WHEREAS, in December 2019, this premier institution will celebrate its 150th anniversary, marking one and a half centuries of faithful, trustworthy service to the citizens of southeast Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the newspaper traces its inception back to 1869, when the firm of Kirby & Gamble, emboldened by a strengthening local economy, opened a small newspaper called *The Chattanooga Daily Times*; each publication totaled merely four pages but was replete with news, advertisements, and practical community announcements; and

WHEREAS, only two other businesses in Chattanooga have been operating longer than the newspaper: T.H. Payne Company, which opened in 1865, and the Martin & Miller law firm, which was founded in 1867; and

WHEREAS, on July 2, 1878, nine years after the newspaper's founding, Adolph Ochs became publisher of *The Chattanooga Times*; with a \$250 loan and \$37.50 working capital, Mr. Ochs set out to provide Chattanooga's some 12,000 residents with a missive that would be "the indispensable organ of the business, commercial, and productive, of Chattanooga, and of their mineral and agricultural districts"; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, 121 years later, the *Times* merged with its longtime rival, the *Chattanooga Free Press*, under ownership of Walter E. Hussman, Jr., a third-generation newspaper publisher from Little Rock, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, over the last 150 years, the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* has tackled many challenges, faced seismic shifts in technology, and reinvented its business model, all while remaining true to the tenets it was founded upon, chief among them to be known as a trustworthy source of news; and

WHEREAS, the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* has solidified its role as one of the premier sources of journalist excellence in the State; in 2003, the newspaper was named the best in the State by the Tennessee Press Association, and, that same year, it was called one of ten newspapers in the United States "doing it right" by *Editor and Publisher* magazine; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 alone, the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* received six first-place awards in the Tennessee Press Association's annual newspaper contest for Sunday editions, personal humor column, personal column, headline writing, single editorial, and breaking news coverage; and

WHEREAS, throughout the newspaper's sesquicentennial year, the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* will reflect on the events that have shaped Chattanooga over the last 150 years, as well as the newspaper's role in telling that story; and

WHEREAS, the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* tells the story of Chattanooga with integrity and aplomb; it continues to live up to the promise made by Adolph Ochs, which is still printed at the top of each paper: "To give the news impartially, without fear or favor."; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we recognize this august institution; 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 hereby commend and congratulate the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* upon the occasion of its 150th anniversary, extending our gratitude for its important work and our best wishes for its continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.