

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 141

By Hensley

A RESOLUTION to support the relocation of the James K. Polk Tomb from the State Capitol to the President James K. Polk Home and Museum State Historic Site.

WHEREAS, James K. Polk served seven terms in the United States House of Representatives from 1825 to 1839; and

WHEREAS, James K. Polk served as Speaker of the United States House of Representatives from 1835 to 1839 and remains the only president to have held that office; and

WHEREAS, James K. Polk served as the Governor of Tennessee from 1839 to 1841; and

WHEREAS, James K. Polk served as the eleventh President of the United States from 1845 to 1849, one of only three Tennesseans to ever hold that high office; and

WHEREAS, James K. Polk is now considered one of the greatest presidents in American history, having, in a promised single term, established the Smithsonian Institution and the United States Naval Academy and increased the size of the nation by one-third; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his death in 1849, James K. Polk desired to be buried at his home, "Polk Place," in Nashville, which no longer stands; and

WHEREAS, his subsequent internment at the State Capitol failed to reflect his burial wishes as stated in his Last Will and Testament either in substance or in spirit; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the James K. Polk Memorial Association to relocate the Polk Tomb to the President James K. Polk Home and Museum State Historic Site in Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the President James K. Polk Home in Columbia was built by the President's father, Samuel Polk, in 1816 and is President Polk's only surviving residence other than the White House; and

WHEREAS, the relocation of the Polk Tomb to the President James K. Polk Home in Columbia shall more properly honor the wishes and memory of a great national leader; and

WHEREAS, such relocation shall create new opportunities to educate the public on historically significant achievements of the Polk Presidency through increased accessibility of the grave site; and

WHEREAS, the James K. Polk Memorial Association, with assistance from the State of Tennessee, has pledged to prepare a fitting place for the tomb on the grounds of the President James K. Polk Home in Columbia and to maintain the tomb in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, the President James K. Polk Home and Museum State Historical Site represents a state-owned site, facilitating ease of transfer of the Polk Tomb from the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, the Maury County legislative body supports the relocation of the Polk Tomb to the President James K. Polk Home and Museum State Historic Site; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia is also in favor of such relocation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we support the relocation of the Polk Tomb from the State Capitol to the President James K. Polk Home and Museum State Historic Site located at 301 West Seventh Street, Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee.

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