

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 335

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Addine Dow on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Addine Dow will celebrate her 100th birthday on October 6, 2011, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Norman and Daisy Denton Womack, Addine Dow was born and raised in the Cave City community of White County, Tennessee, and baptized in the Calfkiller River at the age of twelve; and

WHEREAS, understanding the importance of education, Addine attended school whenever possible, having to miss school for extended periods of time to care for her sick mother; and

WHEREAS, young Addine's English teacher, Mary O. Jones, granted a wish to Addine and made arrangements for the young girl to take music lessons from the best teacher in town. This significant act made a tremendous impact, kindling the young girl's love of music that has helped to sustain her all these years; and

WHEREAS, completing seventh and eight grade at Onward Seminary in White County, Addine Dow received her diploma from White County High School in 1931 and obtained a four-year professional certificate from the Teacher's Examination that same year; and

WHEREAS, Addine Dow began her teaching career at Bethel, a one-room school that met in a church house rented by the local school system; she was assigned to Walling, a two-room school, in 1933 and served there as principal for two years; and

WHEREAS, in 1935, Addine Dow taught fifth and sixth grade at Doyle while pursuing a bachelor's degree at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, now Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 1940, Addine Dow married Larry Swack, a skilled electrician, whose expertise was in great demand during World War II, and the young couple moved frequently to wherever the war effort needed him, including stops at Oak Ridge, Kingsport, Union City, and Jackson in Tennessee in addition to Marietta, Georgia; Hot Springs, Arkansas; and Ohio; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, this joyous union welcomed a son, Tyrone, who was born on September 10, and this young family bought a house in Doyle, Tennessee, at Christmas to serve as their base of operation during all their travel; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Swack bought and operated a motel in Sulphur Springs, Texas, and Addine began a fourteen-year teaching career in Shreveport, Louisiana, where she worked with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders and occasionally 1<sup>st</sup> grade students; and

WHEREAS, tragedy struck in 1963 and again in 1964, as Addine suffered the devastating losses of her husband and father in 1963 and then her son, Tyrone, in 1964, who was killed in a boat explosion in the Gulf of Mexico just two months after being married; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Addine began courting and later married David Dow, a widowed family friend from her White County days; the couple returned to Tennessee in 1974 and settled in his hometown of Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, active in the Cookeville community, Addine Dow served as president of Cookeville FCE – Family, Community, and Education Club, and taught Sunday School for sixteen years at Collegieside Church of Christ, having previously served as a Sunday School teacher in Shreveport, Louisiana, for nine years; and

WHEREAS, sharing her musical talents, Addine Dow performed with Almon Smith at Morningside Assisted Living facility in Cookeville and expanded their performances of bluegrass and country music to Cedar Hills Retirement Center in Cookeville, Life Care in Sparta, and a number of other locations; and

WHEREAS, although losing her husband, David Dow, in 1996 after twenty-five years of marriage, Addine Dow continues to live independently at her own home and remains a treasured member of her family and church family; and

WHEREAS, as Addine Dow approaches her eleventh decade, she is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events, including giving musical performances, playing guitar and singing, at local nursing homes and assisted living facilities for individuals who cannot travel to hear or see entertainment; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Addine Dow on the celebration of her 100th birthday and extend to her 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.