

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 367

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to recognize Velma Lois Jones, one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women of 2019.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Velma Lois Jones, who has been named one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women by the Memphis Inter-Denominational (MID) Fellowship, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the MID Fellowship recognizes the importance of honoring those women who have demonstrated excellence in their respective fields; the women recognized are judged on the basis of being a Woman of Faith, a Woman of Prayer, a Woman of Good Works, a Woman of Dedication, and a Woman of Leadership with the Courage of Esther; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the MID Fellowship requested nominations of Memphis and Shelby County women who are graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and, subsequently, selected twelve outstanding women; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Velma Jones enjoyed a forty-year career as an educator; a trusted leader in her field, she was the first African-American classroom teacher to be elected president of the Memphis Education Association and the Tennessee Education Association (TEA), becoming the longest-serving president in the history of TEA; and

WHEREAS, since retiring, Ms. Jones has become a strong champion for senior Americans; she has served as regional impact team leader for AARP, and on February 13, 2012, the White House Office of Faith-based Neighborhood Partnerships honored her with the Drum Majors for Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Velma Jones is a faithful member of Trinity C.M.E. Church, where she is active with the Stewardesses Board, Finance Committee, Missionary Society, and Sunday School; the first woman elected to serve as president of the NAACP Memphis Branch, she currently serves on its Executive Board and Human Resources Committee; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that Ms. Jones be recognized at this time; 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 congratulate Velma Lois Jones on being honored by the Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship, Inc., as one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women of 2019.

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