

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 496

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dorothy "Dottie" Akers Thompson upon her receipt of the Emory Valley Center Compassion Award.

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 estimable person is Dorothy "Dottie" Akers Thompson, who received the Emory Valley Center Compassion Award in recognition of her efforts on behalf of the Emory Valley Center; and

WHEREAS, Dottie Thompson co-chaired the Emory Valley Center Capital Campaign for eight years with Dr. Gene Caldwell; during this time, they diligently visited churches, community clubs and organizations, local businesses, corporations, and individuals, and they participated in fundraising events and wrote thirty-seven grants to obtain additional funding; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Thompson and Dr. Caldwell worked tirelessly and compassionately to make the new Emory Valley Center building a reality, and the Caldwell-Thompson building was named in their honor; and

WHEREAS, for their service to people with disabilities, they also received a certificate of appreciation from Governor Bill Haslam; and

WHEREAS, Dottie Thompson received her bachelor's degree in French at Vanderbilt University and her master's degree in special education from the University of Tennessee; she was also a Fellow at the Sorbonne, University of Paris; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Oak Ridge community for fifty-seven years, Ms. Thompson taught French, math, and special education at Robertsville Junior High School for a number of

years; she later served in the Oak Ridge Schools' central office for homebound services and then became the co-director of pupil personnel services, from which position she retired in 1999; and

WHEREAS, she has given back to her community through her volunteer work as a Camp Fire Girls Leader and an American Red Cross volunteer, teaching swimming lessons for twenty-six summers; she co-founded the Oak Ridge Children's Show Choir, which enjoyed a successful twenty-year run, and served for six years on the Oak Ridge Civic Music Association Board; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to improving the lives of those with disabilities, she continues to support Emory Valley Center and serves on the Emory Valley Center Foundation Board; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and awards, she is the recipient of the Service Beyond Self award from the Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary, the Home Town Hero award from Home Federal Bank, the 2016 Tribute to Women award from the YWCA, and the Starfish Award from the United Way; and

WHEREAS, as an advocate for people of all abilities, Dottie Thompson epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Dottie Thompson for her many contributions to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; 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 honor and commend Dorothy "Dottie" Akers Thompson upon her receipt of the Emory Valley Center Compassion Award and extend to her our best wishes for continued success in her future endeavors.

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