

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 556

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Rocky Mount Museum upon the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those notable communities that preserve the panoramic history of the great State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such historic site is the Rocky Mount Museum, which will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, established on April 1, 1962, the Museum is an enduring symbol of the challenges overcome by early settlers in the Appalachians of pre-statehood Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the first capital of the Southwest Territory and the residence of Governor William Blount, Rocky Mount was the home of William and Barsheba Cobb before it came under the care of their daughter, Penelope, and her prominent pioneer husband, Henry Massengill, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, the enterprising young couple there established the Massengill Farm, family-owned and -operated for agricultural purposes since Tennessee achieved statehood in 1796; and

WHEREAS, Massengill-Cobb descendents inhabited and preserved this illustrious estate until its acquisition by the State in 1959, when the Rocky Mount Historical Association took up the torch of its preservation; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Association's commitment and hard work, Rocky Mount, through its first-person living history program, offers a faithful experience of Appalachian life in pre-statehood Tennessee to thousands of visitors every year from all fifty states and from countries all over the world; and

WHEREAS, in addition to out-of-state tourists, the Museum is open to 10,000 students from the tri-state area, who participate in hands-on educational programs about post-Revolution life in that region; and

WHEREAS, the Rocky Mount Historical Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums, a status claimed by less than fifteen percent of museums in the United States and only thirteen museums in the State of Tennessee, and is the only accredited house museum in the State; and

WHEREAS, with over one million visitors since its inception and over 10,000 artifacts curated, preserved, and exhibited, the Museum rightfully celebrates a half-century of successful preservation, education, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, through the continued preservation of historic properties such as Rocky Mount, the citizens of Tennessee can continue to benefit from the panoramic history our State has to offer and learn its many lessons for the future; 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 honor and commend the Rocky Mount Museum for its tireless efforts to preserve our national and state history and congratulate it on the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary.

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