

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 587

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Thomas Allen "T.A.", Sr., and V. Jean Bryan upon the occasion of their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as exemplars for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 1956, Thomas Allen "T.A." Bryan and V. Jean Oliver were joined in holy matrimony, and since that fateful day, this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, basking in the glow of their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, T.A. Bryan was born in Shop Springs in January 1935; Jean Oliver Bryan was born in June 1938; they met and fell in love at Kingsboro Silk Mill, where they both worked as young adults; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bryan later worked at Hartmann Luggage, then started in the insurance business in 1963; he went on to receive General Agent status with Transamerica Occidental and Ohio National Insurance companies, simultaneously working on his Chartered Life Underwriter degree and volunteering with various charitable causes; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bryan meanwhile worked at home, raising three rambunctious boys, and volunteered at the local hospital and with her local sorority chapter, Beta Sigma Phi; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, the couple purchased the historic Martha Gaston Hospital property located on South College Street in Lebanon, subsequently remodeling the building and transforming the property into office space, which included Mr. Bryan's insurance agency; and

WHEREAS, highly respected citizens of Lebanon, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan are the very epitome of good neighbors, as they always endeavor to treat others as they would like to be treated; and

WHEREAS, the Bryans are active members of First Baptist Church in Lebanon, where Mr. Bryan serves as deacon; they both lead Sunday school class at a local nursing/long-term care facility in Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, one of the couple's most charitable, service-oriented projects was the founding of Cedarcroft Home, a safe shelter for those men in the Lebanon community who are down on their luck, suffering from mental illness, recovering from addiction, or experiencing homelessness; Cedarcroft has grown over the years, becoming a State-licensed, 501(c)3 entity and housing thousands of men over the years—providing them food and clothing in a loving Christian environment; and

WHEREAS, currently, Cedarcroft Home is directly helping 150 men who live on campus, which expanded several years ago to include the Margie Anna Nursing Home property and several adjacent houses on College Street; it is now the largest facility of its kind in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1970s, the Bryans hosted a Vietnamese family after learning of the need for host families by those seeking refuge at the end of the Vietnam War; they remain in contact with the Do Nu Dien family to this day; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan's marriage has been blessed with three sons, Tommy A. (Bobbie Kay) Bryan II, Robert "Tick" (Sandra) Bryan, and John B. (Kim) Bryan; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren, with one more expected in August; and

WHEREAS, for sixty-five years, this blessed union has grown and prospered as an expression of time-honored family values and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Bryans' truly represent the best and brightest of our society, as they remind us of the intrinsic value of continuity and commitment in this ever-changing world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we congratulate Thomas Allen "T.A.", Sr., and V. Jean Bryan on the occasion of their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary and extend to them our warmest wishes for continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.