

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 867

By Woodson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Ijams Nature Center on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly recognize and pay homage to those venerable historical Tennessee institutions that have reached milestones in their illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, the Ijams Nature Center is one such revered institution that is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, in 1910, the Ijams family settled on the original twenty acres of undeveloped property in the heart of one of Knoxville's heavily industrialized areas and founded what has developed into Ijams Nature Center today; and

WHEREAS, in the following years, the Ijams family, with a deep philosophy of education and conservation, developed the land into a natural showplace called the Bird Sanctuary; they also spearheaded Knoxville's ornithological, Girl Scouts, and Garden Club movements through their passion for birds, outdoor experiences, and horticulture; and

WHEREAS, since the days of the Ijams family, Ijams Nature Center has increased in acreage, educational opportunities, and visitor experiences; today, people of all ages come to Ijams to hike nature trails, bird watch, or attend educational workshops, which increase environmental stewardship throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, the Visitor Center of Ijams Nature Center also features engaging exhibits on lost species and natural history, in addition to hosting non-releasable birds of prey encounters; and

WHEREAS, this fall, Ijams will expand further with the addition of the 100-acre Ross Marble Quarry; acquired with the help of the City of Knoxville and the Legacy Parks Foundation,

the property will, combined with existing Ijams park land, new undisturbed woodlands, rocky outcrops, and a stunning quarry gorge, create a 275-acre natural destination unmatched in Knox County; and

WHEREAS, Ijams Nature Center's 100th anniversary festivities will begin on May 21 with an Ijams family history book release and photography exhibit opening, and on May 22, the Center will host a Founder's Day event; and

WHEREAS, Ijams Nature Center is a historic Tennessee landmark; a family-founded institution operated by exceptional individuals who work daily to better their community, this beacon of noble conservancy anchored in the Knoxville landscape unites citizens around tradition, stewardship, and family values; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the hard-working employees of the Ijams Nature Center, reflecting upon the unparalleled conservationist legacy of the Ijams family, and join with them in celebrating 100 years of service to the people of Knoxville and this great State.

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