

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 900

By Swann

A RESOLUTION to designate the last weekend in October 2024 as "Honor Your Hometown Weekend" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the strength of our State and our nation lies in the towns, small and large, that make up our great country; and

WHEREAS, generations of brilliant Tennessee songwriters, musicians, and singers have helped Americans from all across the nation express their love of hometowns through music; and

WHEREAS, the common experiences we share as we grow up in our hometowns remain an integral part of our lives, regardless of the corner of the globe where we may reside; and

WHEREAS, our hometowns remind us that what we have in common is far greater and more important than anything that may divide us; and

WHEREAS, the essence of democracy is exhibited in our towns, cities, and neighborhoods, where people work together to build and sustain local government, small businesses, and the many philanthropic, religious, volunteer, youth sports, and cultural enterprises that enrich our nation; and

WHEREAS, the absence of a designated day in our State and the nation to honor our hometowns is an oversight that deserves to be addressed; and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important that we appreciate the power of hometowns to help us overcome divisions, renew friendships, and enhance civil discourse; and

WHEREAS, every citizen, each community, business, and civic institution, all fraternal organizations, and other groups should have the opportunity to celebrate annually the unique attributes and history of their hometown; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of Mother's Day, which has been celebrated for more than a century, and Father's Day, which has been celebrated for more than fifty years, there should be a celebration in every state and across the nation of one of our greatest unifying forces, our hometowns; and

WHEREAS, beloved Country Music Hall of Fame members and Tennessee residents Connie Smith, Dolly Parton, and Marty Stuart, along with renowned documentarian Ken Burns, are the leading voices for a nonpartisan, inclusive, volunteer-led effort to create a nationwide celebration of our hometowns; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby designate the last weekend in October 2024 as "Honor Your Hometown Weekend" in the State of Tennessee for the purpose of recognizing and appreciating the towns, cities, communities, and neighborhoods that have grounded us and shaped our bonds with each other, our State, and our nation.

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