

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7137

By Briggs

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Clara Jewel Hall Hughes on the celebration of her 103rd birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Clara Jewel Hall Hughes will celebrate her 103rd birthday on September 28, 2023, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, a resident of Knoxville, Mrs. Hughes, affectionately known as "Mother Clara" and "Aunt Clara," served the Union Carbide Nuclear Corporation for more than thirty years and was the first African-American woman to serve on the union board for workers at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, born in Oliver Springs, Clara Hughes is the third of six children who were born to Fred Douglas and Lucy Jones Curd; she attended Emery Gap and Kingston schools and later attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville for two years; and

WHEREAS, during her early years, Mrs. Hughes made a living for herself as a domestic assistant and caregiver for several families and as a cook for numerous restaurants; during her tenure at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Mrs. Hughes served in several positions, including as a maintenance supervisor, a position which she retired from in 1982; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected and active member of her community, Clara Hughes is a devoted member of the Oliver Springs Historical Society and the Mayme Carmichael School Organization, Incorporated (MCSO); and

WHEREAS, she is an esteemed and long-serving member of the Eastern Star Atomic Chapter #13 of Oak Ridge; Daughter of Isis Almas Court #157, Commandress and Queen of

Almas Court, and Imperial Deputy of the Oasis of Almas Court; and past treasurer of Keblah Court #57 of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, admired for her style, Mrs. Hughes won first place in the annual Oriental Fashion Show in Miami, Florida; most recently, she served as Grand Marshal in the 2021 Annual Town of Oliver Springs Christmas Parade; and

WHEREAS, a woman of unwavering faith, Mrs. Hughes gave her life to Christ at an early age and was baptized in 1938 in Oliver Springs; she is a faithful member of Little Leaf Missionary Baptist Church, where she has served as a Sunday School teacher and a member of several groups, including the choir, the Baptist Young People's Union, and the decorating committee; and

WHEREAS, for more than forty years, Clara Hughes efficiently served Little Leaf Missionary Baptist Church as treasurer, until her voluntary resignation at the age of ninety-two, and after more than sixty years, she continues to serve as a deaconess; and

WHEREAS, throughout her life, she has been blessed with the love of family, including her first husband, Freeman Alfred Hall, with whom she had a daughter, Rosa Lisa Hall Drake, and her second husband, Franklin Ira Hughes, whom she married after Mr. Hall's passing; and

WHEREAS, she is the beloved grandmother of four grandchildren, Justina Willis, Lamar Willis, Bonnie Willis, and Freeman Drake; eight great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hughes has many passions, including listening to gospel music, birdwatching, canning fresh fruits and vegetables, making jellies and preserves, playing checkers, participating in church activities, visiting family and friends, and serving humanity in any way she can; and

WHEREAS, she has also enjoyed an abundance of adventure and traveled to each state over the last century, having recently visited Alaska, in addition to visiting several countries and taking fourteen cruises; and

WHEREAS, Clara Hughes is still a positive force for good, admired for her devout faith, generous spirit, and dedication to her community and her family; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; 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 recognize and honor Clara Jewel Hall Hughes on the celebration of her 103rd birthday and extend to her our best wishes for many happy returns of the day.

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.