

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8017 of the Second Extraordinary Session

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of the late Archer Clifford "Cliff" Stephens, the Norris Lions Club's 2020 Norris Day Honoree.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pride in paying tribute to the memory of those estimable Tennesseans whose contributions to their communities during their lifetime improved the quality of life for their fellow citizens and the generations yet to come; and

WHEREAS, one such individual was the late Archer Clifford "Cliff" Stephens of Norris, who was selected earlier this year as the 2020 Norris Day Honoree for the 52nd Annual Norris Lions Club Norris Day Recognition; and

WHEREAS, informed of his receipt of this prestigious honor by his daughter, Amanda Stephens Weaver, shortly before his passing, Mr. Stephens remarked with tears in his eyes, "What a wonderful honor."; and

WHEREAS, a pillar of the Norris community, Cliff Stephens relocated to Norris from Cravenstown in 1936 as a young boy with his mother and two brothers, after his father, Grover Stephens, found work with the Tennessee Valley Authority helping to build Norris Dam; and

WHEREAS, Cliff Stephens liked to claim that his family was the first to live in Norris; as none of the homes in the community had been finished at that time, the family moved into an abandoned farmhouse; and

WHEREAS, in 1936, he took part in the opening of the new Norris school, understanding the opportunity he then had to receive a public education after leaving the two-room wooden schoolhouse in Cravenstown; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stephens would continue his education at Milligan College, where he was a star on the basketball team and served as co-captain; and

WHEREAS, Cliff Stephens continued his love of learning as an adult, becoming a teacher at Norris High School, where he taught physical education and coached the basketball team, enriching the lives of those he taught and coached as he instilled in them a commitment to excellence, fair play, and determination; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stephens relocated his family to Florida to pursue a career in business but continued his tremendous love of sports, enthusiastically supporting his beloved Tennessee Volunteers and the Tennessee Lady Vols; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Cliff Stephens and his family returned to Norris, where he lent his time and talents to numerous civic organizations, including the Norris Water Commission and the Friends of the Library Board; and

WHEREAS, an active part of his community, Mr. Stephens taught tennis as part of the Summer Enrichment Program, worked to replace the gazebo on Observation Point, created the Norris High School Alumni Scholarship Fund, and volunteered with the Museum of Appalachia; and

WHEREAS, he was a longtime member of Norris Religious Fellowship, which he served in numerous capacities over the years; and

WHEREAS, a member of America's greatest generation, Cliff Stephens proudly served his country during World War II as a member of the United States Army Air Corps; and

WHEREAS, a beloved family patriarch, mentor, and community leader, Cliff Stephens lived a life of service to his fellow man, and his many contributions to the citizens of Norris and the State of Tennessee should be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Archer Clifford "Cliff" Stephens and commend his

selection as the 2020 Norris Day Honoree by the Norris Lions Club for his lifetime of service to the Norris community.

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.