

SENATE RESOLUTION 1

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Carrie Jane Eastes Hamlett on the celebration of her eightieth birthday.

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

WHEREAS, Carrie Jane Eastes Hamlett will celebrate her eightieth birthday on January 21, 2023, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hamlett was born to the loving arms of Willie Earl and Lily Crawford Eastes, her formative years shaped by her family's farm near the Grant Community in Smith County and her devoted activity in 4-H as a youth; and

WHEREAS, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics, utilizing this achievement for the good of her community by teaching at Gordonsville High School and then accepting the newly created position of Director of School Food Service for Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, as director, Ms. Hamlett was tasked with managing the food operations of the county's eighteen schools, accomplishing this commission with the highest magnitude of professionalism and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hamlett, unable to hide her talents of superior quality, was and remains deeply respected by her peers, having been elected president of a 2,000-member Tennessee Food Service Association in 1981 and serving the Tennessee Department of Education, beginning in 1982, as a school nutrition consultant to the forty school systems in Middle and East Tennessee for fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Ms. Hamlett took the greatly deserved opportunity to retire and spend many more beautiful moments with her beloved husband, Ed Hamlett, who left his cherished memory to this mortal coil on December 8, 2010; and

WHEREAS, turning her loss to the gain of others, she joined the PHOEBE Group in 2011, a faith-based organization for widows that is dedicated to community service and finding healing through helping; and

WHEREAS, she is not content to merely rest on her laurels but further participates in church and community volunteering; and

WHEREAS, she continues Sunday School Extension by going to a local nursing home weekly and providing the residents with self-written inspirational cards, as well as working with young girls in Wednesday Night Church AWANA since 2011 and helping with summer VBS programs for the past twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, as a Gideon Auxiliary member, Ms. Hamlett began a team to visit women inmates in the Wilson County Jail, providing a library cart of Christian literature to the facility and a free Gideon Bible to each inmate; and

WHEREAS, the impact of Ms. Hamlett's work was so prolific that her team now includes a former inmate who experienced a profound conversion to Christian living by the efforts of Ms. Hamlett; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 International Gideon Convention specially honored Ms. Hamlett by spotlighting her heroic work at the Wilson County Jail, showing her zeal for freeing women from the mental chains of addiction and self-abuse; and

WHEREAS, to this day, she is a speaker for the Tennessee Gideon Auxiliary and serves as a Middle Tennessee Regional Program Leader for the Gideon Bible Card program; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hamlett is also an accomplished and published poet, giving her writing as both a "sweet savour unto the Lord" and an inspiring comfort to others; and

WHEREAS, as she enters her ninth decade, Ms. Hamlett, admired for her wisdom, spirit of generosity, integrity, and enthusiasm for life, still exudes the goodness so characteristically hers; 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, that we hereby honor and congratulate Carrie Jane Eastes Hamlett on the celebration of her eightieth 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.