

SENATE RESOLUTION 24

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to honor and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States granting women the right to vote.

WHEREAS, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which secured women's right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee was the thirty-sixth and deciding state to pass the 19th Amendment by final vote of the General Assembly on August 18, 1920; and

WHEREAS, suffragists had struggled from 1850 to 1920 to secure this basic right and history books often do not adequately address this rich heritage, particularly the drama of the final vote in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, without Tennessee's ratification, it is unlikely that women would have been able to vote in the November elections of 1920, and the worthy cause of women's suffrage could possibly have been delayed for several more years; and

WHEREAS, another milestone for women in American history occurred in 1968, when Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm became the first African-American woman elected to Congress, representing New York's 12th congressional district, and was sworn in fifty years ago as a member of the 91st United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, historic events for women continue as we approach the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, as January 2019 saw a record-breaking 100 women sworn in as members of the 116th United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the State of Tennessee wishes to join in this celebration of women and the commemoration of this significant event in American history; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and Tennessee's critical role in securing women's right to vote.

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