

SENATE RESOLUTION 102

By Harper

A RESOLUTION relative to Tennessee State University Day on the Hill, March 18, 2014.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to honor and especially distinguish those educational institutions whose goals advance the most noble of precepts of human endeavor and whose history stands as an exemplary testament to this State; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee State University is an outstanding example of Tennessee's educational successes and an institution possessed of a long tradition of excellence; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of a 1909 Act of the Tennessee General Assembly, the Agricultural and Industrial State Normal School was created and began serving students on June 19, 1912, with William Jasper Hale serving as president; and

WHEREAS, in 1922, the institution was empowered to grant the bachelor's degree and become known as the Agricultural and Industrial State Normal College; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, the institution was elevated to full-fledged land-grant university status and was renamed Tennessee Agricultural & Industrial State University, before officially becoming known as Tennessee State University (TSU) in 1968; and

WHEREAS, since 1912, the university has been led by seven presidents: Dr. William Jasper Hale (1912-1943), Walter S. Davis (1943-1968), Andrew Torrence (1968-1974), Frederick Humphries (1975-1985), Otis Floyd (1986-1990), James Hefner (1991-2005), Melvin N. Johnson (2005-2010), and the university's first female and current president, Glenda Baskin Glover (2013-present); and

WHEREAS, Tennessee State University remains true to its mission of educating, serving, and transforming lives by preparing students academically and socially, and holds steadfast to its motto, "Think. Work. Serve."; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee State University has received international, national, regional, and local recognition for its stellar graduates, its academic offerings, research, service, quality, and affordability; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee State University has graduated more than 70,000 students who have contributed to the economic, civic, social, and spiritual welfare of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee State University is Nashville's only comprehensive public university and has an economic impact in the State of Tennessee amounting to \$610 million annually. TSU's presence generates 5,500 jobs and injects approximately \$330 million directly and \$280 million indirectly into the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee State University is one of only a few Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the nation with a chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the oldest and most prestigious honor society comprising all academic disciplines; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee State University's Business Incubation Center has launched numerous small businesses in Tennessee, including Christie Cookie Company and Zycron, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, in its 2011 College Guide and Rankings, *Washington Monthly* named TSU as the number one university in the State of Tennessee and among the top forty universities in the nation in relation to educating and graduating academically-talented, low-income students who become service-oriented leaders in their professions; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee State University has also produced stellar collegiate athletes in track and field, basketball, football, and golf, just to name a few, who have competed on the world stage and have been crowned champions in the Olympics, Super Bowl, and NBA Finals; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate "Tennessee State University Day on the Hill," the university should be commended for its exemplary academic, social, public, and historical contributions to this state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join with the faculty, staff, and students of Tennessee State University as they celebrate March 18, 2014, as "Tennessee State University Day on the Hill," commend the university for its academic excellence, distinguished service, research, and outstanding achievements and for its significant contributions to the State of Tennessee, the nation, and the world.

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