

SENATE RESOLUTION 104

By Lamar

A RESOLUTION to honor Phyllis Young Nichols in celebration of Women's History Month in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the month of March was officially designated as Women's History Month in 1987; and

WHEREAS, every March, Women's History Month provides an opportunity to honor the achievements of those women who have paved the way wherein every person has an opportunity to pursue the American dream; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteer State is proud to be the home of a number of historic, pioneering women, including the awe-inspiring Phyllis Young Nichols, recently retired president and chief executive officer of the Knoxville Area Urban League; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nichols began her tenure at the Knoxville Area Urban League in 1994 and became a chief executive officer in 2000; she expanded the Urban League's impact to serve more than 11,000 individuals and families each year through programs to provide a skilled and diverse workforce, increase and retain homeownership, support economic and small business development, gain an affiliation and certification as a Community Development Financial Institution, and advocate for equity and excellence in education for students of color; and

WHEREAS, recognized as a senior fellow by the National Urban League, her expertise in board and affiliate development has facilitated her work with the organization and other nonprofits throughout the country with leading initiatives under the Tennessee Urban League Affiliates; and

WHEREAS, an ardent advocate in her community, Mrs. Nichols serves on several boards, taskforces, and committees; she was a previous president of the Executive Women's

Association, a chair and trustee of the former Great Schools Partnership, and a member of the boards of the East Tennessee Foundation and Tennova Hospital Metro. She currently serves on the Truist advisory board and Knoxville Symphony board; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of East Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Mrs. Nichols completed education and leadership courses at the University of Tennessee, the Whitney M. Young, Jr., Center for Urban Leadership, and the Duke University Center for Executive Leadership; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nichols is a graduate of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and Federal Bureau of Investigation citizens' academies, and she is a 2003 graduate of Leadership Knoxville; she is also a member of Class V of Leadership Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mrs. Nichols received the Women of Achievement Award from the Tanasi Girl Scout Council, the "Be More" Person of the Year Award from East Tennessee Public Television, the Diversity Award from the University of Tennessee College of Communications and Information, and the Women of Power Award from the National Urban League; the Tennessee Human Rights Commission recognized Mrs. Nichols for her advocacy for civil rights and social justice, and the YWCA of Knoxville Tribute to Women named her one of thirty remarkable women who have impacted the community in the last thirty years. Additionally, she is the fifth recipient of the Lizzie Crozier French Leadership Award from the East Tennessee Women's Leadership Council; and

WHEREAS, she received the Distinguished Service Award from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission, the Equity Champion for Tennessee Award from the Tennessee Education Equity Coalition, the James A. Haslam Chairman's Leadership Award from the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, and the Economic Advocacy Award from the NAACP Knoxville branch; she was recently presented as an inaugural awardee into the Knoxville Nonprofit Hall of Fame by United Way of Greater Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, her many professional accomplishments aside, Mrs. Nichols is most proud to be a wife, mother, and grandmother; and

WHEREAS, in saluting Mrs. Nichols during Women's History Month, let us remember that when women succeed, America succeeds, as does Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor Phyllis Young Nichols on her many contributions to the State of Tennessee as we celebrate Women's History Month and the generations of trailblazing women who have built our State and their vital contributions to our country's history.

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