

SENATE RESOLUTION 118

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the 2017 Hayes Family Reunion.

WHEREAS, family is the basic building block that shapes our society, and the lives of family members, filled with work and play, love and laughter, illness and health, grief and disappointment, and success and achievement, shape the course of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the history of our State and nation is woven from the countless threads of the histories of families, and these family chronicles are worthy of our appreciation; and

WHEREAS, on May 26-28, 2017, in Somerville, the members of the Hayes family will come together once again to enjoy fellowship, fun, and worship, while also learning more about their family roots at their annual family reunion; and

WHEREAS, the Hayes family has a rich and illustrious history that is sewn from the strong fibers of hard work, sacrifice, and perseverance; the Hayes family traces its roots back to family patriarchs T. Hayes, Charlie Hayes, and Willie Hayes, and family matriarchs Emely Hayes, Sallie Alice Hayes Loveless King, and Mary Hayes Harvey Broadnax; and

WHEREAS, the Hayes family are descended from former enslaved persons from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who, upon gaining their freedom, settled in the states of Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia, with the Tennesseans settling down in the area of Somerville and Mason, where they became sharecroppers and landowners; and

WHEREAS, a proud and accomplished family, its members have succeeded in a variety of fields, but the family members are especially proud of its distinguished record of military service in the United States Armed Forces, as seventy-five family members have served in the military and nine family members currently continue in active duty; and

WHEREAS, today, the treasured Hayes family elders include Paul Harvey, Beatrice Lovelace-Rockette, Katherine Billingsley-Bell, and Estelle Billingsley-Williams, each of whom is a testament to great strength, character, and endurance; and

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are pleased to recognize the scions of the Hayes family as they gather to remember their triumphs and accomplishments, recall various historical events in their shared past, and exchange news of current events; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the Hayes Family Reunion on this special occasion and wish the members of this exceptional family all the best as they preserve the memory of their beloved ancestors, renew family connections, and revisit their wonderful shared family history.

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