

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 9

By Reedy

A RESOLUTION to express the General Assembly's support for declaring April 17 as "Tennessee Flag Day."

WHEREAS, this General Assembly believes it is important that Tennessee students have a strong knowledge and understanding of the history of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the General Assembly enacted the "Senator Douglas Henry Tennessee History Act," and in doing so, found that it is essential for all Tennessee citizens to know and understand the unique heritage and history of the State of Tennessee, that a clear and full understanding of Tennessee's history is fundamental to understanding Tennessee's place in the United States and the world, and that providing and promoting Tennessee history should be a core mission of our system of education; and

WHEREAS, although students complete one semester of Tennessee history in the fifth grade and Tennessee academic standards contain explicitly stated, embedded, and implied Tennessee content to signal the importance of Tennessee history, a student cannot develop a solid foundation of knowledge in Tennessee history unless the student understands and appreciates the history, symbolism, and significance of the Tennessee state flag; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee state flag was designed by LeRoy Reeves to symbolize the indissoluble unity of the three Grand Divisions of this State and adopted as the official flag of the State of Tennessee by enactment of the General Assembly on April 17, 1905; and

WHEREAS, Flag Day is nationally observed on June 14 of each year to commemorate the adoption of the American flag on June 14, 1777, and to acknowledge the ideals for which it stands through educational programs and ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, a similar observance on April 17 of each year to commemorate the adoption of the Tennessee state flag on April 17, 1905, and to acknowledge the ideals for which it stands through educational programs and ceremonies would benefit all Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly expresses its support for declaring April 17 as "Tennessee Flag Day" to commemorate the adoption of the Tennessee state flag on April 17, 1905, and to further the education of Tennessee students about the history, symbolism, and significance of the Tennessee state flag to ensure that they develop a solid foundation of knowledge in Tennessee history that will serve them well as citizens of this State.