

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 29

By Jernigan

A RESOLUTION commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
Battle of New Orleans.

WHEREAS, it is wholly fitting that this General Assembly commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812 Battle of New Orleans and commend those who diligently strive to preserve the history, historical sites, and heritage of the event; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 1815, some 4,500 American troops united and faced off against 8,000 British soldiers in a battle that lasted thirty minutes and resulted in Britain's defeat, with a casualty ratio of about 2,000 British to fewer than twenty Americans; and

WHEREAS, the last major battle of the War of 1812, the Battle of New Orleans was the third front of Britain's three-prong invasion of the United States' newly purchased western territory, where the British planned to seize the New Orleans seaport and gain dominion over trade in the American South; and

WHEREAS, the British invasion was thwarted by Major General Andrew Jackson, who rushed to defend New Orleans, putting the city under martial law and ordering all weapons and able-bodied men be brought forward in defense of the city; and

WHEREAS, the ragtag assembly of men who united to defend New Orleans included U.S. Army regulars; Louisiana militiamen; frontier militiamen from Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi; volunteer free men of color battalions; Choctaw Indian allies; and Baratarians Bay pirates, Jean Lafitte and his Baratarians; and

WHEREAS, it was during the War of 1812 that Tennessee earned its nickname, "Volunteer State," when on November 14, 1814, General William Carroll called for militia volunteers in Tennessee to aid General Jackson, who was the former general of the Tennessee

militia. Seventeen days later, 1,300 Tennessee militiamen joined General Jackson and his troops in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, throughout the month of December, American troops fortified and widened the Rodriguez Canal and built rampart and artillery batteries to create a strong defensive line along the bank of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, on the Chalmette Battlefield the morning of January 8, 1815, Lieutenant General Sir Edward Pakenham, the leader of the British forces, launched a two-prong attack on General Jackson's army; and

WHEREAS, greatly outnumbering their American counterparts, the British were sure of a victory at the Battle of New Orleans; however, they had underestimated the dexterity of Jackson's militiamen, who, although not a formal or experienced fighting force, had honed skills while hunting in the newly purchased western frontier, which they put to great use against the British Redcoats; and

WHEREAS, the British troops advancing on General Jackson's defensive line were cut down by the precise marksmanship of the frontier militiamen and were forced to retreat on both fronts; and

WHEREAS, in the Battle of New Orleans, the British suffered 2,000 casualties, including three generals and seven colonels; General Pakenham was among those who died on the Chalmette Battlefield; and

WHEREAS, historians now consider the Battle of New Orleans a stalemate, but in 1815, New Orleans and the Americans who protected her were awash with national pride in eradicating the British Redcoats; and

WHEREAS, after the Battle of New Orleans, January 8 was celebrated annually throughout the United States with the same enthusiasm as Independence Day until the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, it is important that we remember the individuals who united to defend the sovereignty of the United States and were willing to lay down their lives in service to the preservation of democracy in their young nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the members of this General Assembly hereby recognize and commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, reflecting on the impact of the battle on this State and this nation.

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