

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 40

By Freeman

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commemorate Arnold's Country Kitchen for forty years of service to Nashville.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this General Assembly to recognize those exemplary businesses that not only contribute to the economy but are also a part of the cultural fabric of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable establishment is Arnold's Country Kitchen, a well-known and beloved family restaurant that recently closed its doors for the final time after forty years of providing hospitality and homecooked taste to the people of Nashville and meat-and-three enthusiasts from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Arnold's Country Kitchen was opened by Jack and Rose Arnold in Nashville in 1982 and quickly became a destination, where everyone from country stars to construction workers dined on such Southern staples as fried chicken, catfish, fried green tomatoes, turnip greens, and cornbread, not to mention the restaurant's famous chocolate pie; and

WHEREAS, Arnold's iconic meat-and-three fare brought wide acclaim to the restaurant, which has been featured in such publications as *Garden & Gun*, *Maxim*, *Southern Living*, *SAVEUR*, and *Bon Appétit*, as well as on such television programs as the Food Network's *Diners*, *Drive-Ins and Dives*; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Arnold's Country Kitchen was awarded a prestigious James Beard American Classics Award, winning the praises of the James Beard Foundation, which noted, "Along with his wife, Rose, and his son Kahlil, Jack has won a citywide reputation for excellence in meat-and-three fare. Although he roasts a beautiful haunch of beef, vegetables are Arnold's specialty."; and

WHEREAS, restaurant owner Kahlil Arnold got his start in his family's business in 1990 at the age of thirteen, when his father—determined to instill in him a strong work ethic and the bones of the business from the ground up—had him washing pots in the back of the restaurant; and

WHEREAS, after his on-the-job education, Kahlil Arnold went to college and left the family business for a time, but as his father grew older and the family business needed him, he returned home to the restaurant in 2005 to run the establishment alongside his mother; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the restaurant expanded and added additional tables, and in 2020, Arnold's added a bar and dinner service to what had previously been only a lunchtime operation; and

WHEREAS, the Eighth Avenue area around Arnold's Country Kitchen has changed a great deal since Jack and Rose Arnold opened the restaurant in the early 1980s, with intensive redevelopment altering a district once dotted by antique stores and light industrial facilities; and

WHEREAS, while the closure of this beloved Nashville institution has left many patrons concerned about the loss of another piece of "Old Nashville," the decision to close was the family's alone; as Rose Arnold explained, "I want to retire, and I've got a lot of people to take care of, including my husband. We've decided the timing is right for us to now step away for some rest and to begin a new journey."; and

WHEREAS, for Kahlil Arnold, part of that new journey may well be the opening of another restaurant or two in the future, which is something Arnold's many loyal customers will be very pleased to hear; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we honor the legacy of this beloved dining establishment and all those who made it a success as its story comes to a close; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize the Arnold family for their many years of service to the Nashville community through their operation of Arnold's Country Kitchen, extending our best wishes for much success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.