

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 51

By Fritts

A RESOLUTION to seek Almighty God's hand of ever-present mercy and healing on Tennessee.

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that our national and State founders trusted in the omnipotent hand of Providence to bless our land and to guide their actions; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that these founders established our nation and our State on the Judeo-Christian values outlined in the Bible, including the concept that governments are established by God to protect the rights of the individual and the teachings to "do unto others as we would have them do unto us" and to love our neighbors as ourselves, and that from these ideas, the Tennessee Volunteer spirit flows; and

WHEREAS, we understand that only a continued commitment and adherence to these values and the laws of Nature and Nature's God, coupled with a dedication to our Constitution, can thwart the forthcoming attacks against our Tennessee way of life; and

WHEREAS, we are thankful that Tennessee has been blessed by Providence with abundant resources and a prosperity resultant from liberty; and

WHEREAS, we are grateful for the periods of economic stability Tennessee has enjoyed; and

WHEREAS, despite these blessings, our citizens and neighbors will continue to face challenges, many of which may not have been seen before in this State or nation; and

WHEREAS, our citizens and neighbors continue to have concerns about the security of our national borders and attacks on our institutions and way of life; and

WHEREAS, exposing, resisting, and removing corruption from all levels of government is vital to maintaining liberty for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking (slavery) was, is, and forever will be an unacceptable evil in our State and nation that destroys the lives of thousands, depriving them of their Creator-endowed rights to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness; and

WHEREAS, acts of criminal violence in our communities are and will remain unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, the dependence on and the addiction to drugs and alcohol will continue to overwhelm our government finances, our healthcare and mental health systems, and our law enforcement resources, adversely affecting workforce productivity and damaging families; and

WHEREAS, a high divorce rate and an expansive need for foster care indicates a brokenness in Tennessee families; and

WHEREAS, building strong and committed families where the father and mother are committed to one another, their children, and their community is foundational to a healthy Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the suicidal and infanticidal tendencies bombarding our culture from all directions belie the truth that everyone's life has value because we are created in the image of God; and

WHEREAS, we know that societies that fail to honor all life cannot survive; and

WHEREAS, throughout our history, our leaders have called people to seek the Creator's favor and mercy by issuing proclamations like the one issued by John Adams on March 23, 1798:

"As the safety and prosperity of nations ultimately and essentially depend on the protection and the blessing of Almighty God; and the national acknowledgment of this truth is not only an indispensable duty which the People owe to Him, but a duty whose natural influence is favorable to the promotion of that Morality and Piety, without which social Happiness cannot exist nor the Blessings of a Free Government be enjoyed; and

as this Duty, at all times incumbent, is so especially in seasons of Difficulty or of Danger, when existing or threatening Calamities, the just Judgments of God against prevalent Iniquity, are a loud call to Repentance and Reformation...Under these considerations it has appeared to me that the Duty of imploring the Mercy and Benediction of Heaven on our Country demands, at this time, a special attention from its Inhabitants"; and

WHEREAS, we recognize our duty to legislate responsibly but also understand that solving these problems will require the blessing and protection of Almighty God and a unity of purpose within our communities; and

WHEREAS, we hold that "...except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain" (Ps. 127:1(b)); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the period of July 1 through July 31 of each year be recognized as a time of prayer and fasting in Tennessee.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that we desire the continued blessing of Almighty God on Tennessee, recognizing that He, as Creator and the King of all Glory, holds all authority to both judge and bless nations, states, and peoples.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that we recognize our sins and shortcomings, both individually and as a people, and humbly ask His forgiveness.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that we ask the Lord Jesus to remove corruption, criminal violence, and addiction from our State and our nation, restore marriages and strengthen families, and bring about a righteous unity of vision and purpose for all Tennesseans.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that we ask the Holy Spirit to move within the halls of government, our classrooms, our businesses, our places of worship, and our homes, bringing

peace, hope, love, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, temperance, forbearance, and joy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon those who are physically able and spiritually inclined to join with us annually during the month of July in a season of prayer and fasting, depriving ourselves in order to awaken our hunger for and need of God, humbling ourselves before Him, asking His forgiveness, and seeking His blessings, grace, and mercy so that we, our communities, our State, and our nation will be transformed.