

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 502

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Mary Freeman upon being named a Woman of Excellence by the *New Tri-State Defender*.

WHEREAS, throughout the years, women in Memphis, Tennessee, have been leaders in the areas of civic responsibility, business endeavors, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, for the past five years, *The New Tri-State Defender*, a Memphis-based newspaper, has honored over 250 outstanding African-American women as part of its "Women of Excellence" annual presentation; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 selection of honorees includes fifty such women who have achieved success as executives, business owners, community leaders, ministers, non-profit executives, media personalities, physicians, educators, and role models in their respective fields; and

WHEREAS, these honorees were chosen from among 100 nominations, based upon proven success within their profession or industry, and upon their efforts to encourage others while remaining highly active in community service and organizational involvement; and

WHEREAS, one such honoree is Mary Freeman, Director of Government Relations, Baptist Health Care, who is charged with providing leadership and direction relative to government and legislative matters impacting patient care and/or business operations; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Freeman has over twenty years of legislative and policy experience in state government, serving as a Director and then Chairman of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, Legislative Director for former Governor Phil Bredesen, and executive assistant to State Representative Lois DeBerry; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Tennessee State University, Mary Freeman is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the N.A.A.C.P., and a board member of the Collage

Dance Collective; she has also been recognized as a Top 40 "Under 45" by the Nashville Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. ; and

WHEREAS, the Sixth Annual *New Tri-State Defender's* Women of Excellence awards will be celebrated on this day of April 27, 2013, at the Memphis Botanic Gardens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the Sixth Annual New Tri-State Defender's Women of Excellence celebration be recognized for its efforts to shed light on the contributions of Memphis area women whose lives and careers have had a positive impact on others and that Mary Freeman, Director of Government Relations at Baptist Health Care, Memphis, along with all of the fifty phenomenal women who were chosen as this year's honorees, receive the accolades and appreciation deserving of those who have shown commitment and dedication to the highest principles of service and leadership, and that their contributions be recognized by all in attendance.

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