

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 546

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Natalie Irene Jones Catchings of Memphis for her contributions to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Natalie Irene Jones Catchings of Memphis, a highly respected member of her community who has dedicated herself to improving the quality of life for her fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Natalie Catchings grew up surrounded by the love of family, friends, and community representatives of the historic Orange Mound community and often boasts that she had three mothers: her beloved maternal grandmother, Phronie Green; her mother, Elphreda B. Seymour; and her aunt, Hattie B. Tuggle; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Hamilton High School, Mrs. Catchings earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Kentucky State College and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh; she continued her education with career ladder specialist degrees while teaching in the Memphis City school system; and

WHEREAS, an educator with Memphis City Schools for more than forty years, Natalie Catchings served with distinction as a teacher, assistant principal, and, finally, as principal of Idlewild Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Catchings is a lifelong member of Mt. Pisgah C.M.E. Church, where she received her first speaking opportunities as a young child during Easter and Christmas speeches and programs; she has continued to share her oratorical and musical abilities while

serving in the Mass Choir, and she is a faithful Sunday School and Bible Study Fellowship member who taught children's Sunday School for many years; and

WHEREAS, devoted to her family, Natalie Catchings is the proud mother of three, a grandmother of two, and a loving "bonus mom"; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Catchings epitomizes the spirit and commitment to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly acknowledge and applaud Natalie Catchings for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; 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 honor and commend Natalie Irene Jones Catchings for her lifetime of service to her community and the State of Tennessee and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success.

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.