

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 645

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Nancy Lee Booker Byrd Harper of Memphis.

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 Nancy Lee Booker Byrd Harper 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, born in Mississippi, Nancy Harper is the daughter of Frank and Della Booker; she attended Johnson Elementary School and West District High School before earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Accounting from American Technological University in Killeen, Texas, in 1980; and

WHEREAS, she also holds two master's degrees from Webster University, one in business administration and management and the other in personnel management; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Harper joined the U.S. Army Reserves in November 1976 as a combat field medical personnel (licensed practical nurse); the following year, she transferred to the U.S. Army to work as a supply clerk, and in 1981, she applied for Officer Candidate School with the endorsement of Colonel Colin Powell; and

WHEREAS, she graduated fifth in her class of 149 candidates and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Finance Corps; her positions during her tenure in the military include assistant professor of military science, finance officer, finance commander, United Nations comptroller, staff officer, and Department of the Army Division officer; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Ms. Harper was stationed in Indianapolis, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; Grafenwohr, Germany; Somalia, Africa; Sinai Desert, Africa; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Benning, Georgia; and the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Harper retired at the rank of Major in 1998 after twenty-two years of devoted service in the Armed Forces; during her astute tenure, she was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Soldier's Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Cold War Victory Commemorative Military Medal, Overseas Service Medal, Army Service Commemorative Medal, United Nations Medal, Multinational Forces & Observers Medal, Armed Forces Retired Commemorative Medal, and UN Military Service Commemorative Medal; and

WHEREAS, after retirement, Ms. Harper worked for International Paper as a software/hardware negotiator for three years, resigning to become a Junior Reserve Officer Instructor; she taught JROTC for many years, including at Westside High School, Kirby High School, and Hamilton High School; and

WHEREAS, a highly regarded leader of the American Legion, of which she has been a member for more than twenty years, Nancy Harper currently serves as the Adjutant of Post 27 in Memphis; in 2016, she was nominated and elected as the first African-American woman to hold the position of (State) Department Commander for the State of Tennessee in 100 years; and

WHEREAS, devoted to her community, she is a board member for Operation Stand Down MidSouth, Inc.; founder of The Veterans Connect Ministry; a volunteer with Memphis Veterans Hospital; and a member of Riverside Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Harper is most grateful for the love and support of her husband, past Department Commander George Harper; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly acknowledge and applaud Nancy Harper 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 Nancy Lee Booker Byrd Harper for her lifetime of service 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.