

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 950

By Behn

A RESOLUTION to honor Gnash on his twenty-fifth anniversary as the mascot of the Nashville Predators.

WHEREAS, as we celebrate the twenty-fifth-anniversary season of the Nashville Predators, it is only fitting that we should recognize the public face and true cornerstone of the franchise, namely its loveable, athletic, courageous, and charming mascot, Gnash; and

WHEREAS, Gnash has attended every Predators game since the team's inaugural 1998 season and has been a fan favorite from the very start; more items crafted in his image have been sold at the team's store than any other Predator icon or player; and

WHEREAS, once when the Predators badly needed an enthusiastic crowd at Bridgestone, Gnash, disregarding his personal safety and comfort, climbed the arena's spire and pledged to remain there until the next home game sold out; and

WHEREAS, Gnash endured ten days of March storms and tornado warnings before his efforts inspired Nashvillians to purchase the remaining tickets; with the sell-out assured, he rappelled down the tower to graciously open the arena's doors for the faithful fans; and

WHEREAS, despite suffering numerous injuries and even broken bones over the years, Gnash has remained steadfast in his Herculean support of The Boys in Gold, gladly sacrificing several of his nine lives in service of the Predators; and

WHEREAS, hockey fans are not the only people who adore Gnash, and even celebrities have been known to cozy up to this furry feline; once Gnash defeated The Great One, Wayne Gretsky, in a game of hockey, bubble hockey that is; and

WHEREAS, some say that the first catfish hurled onto the ice at Bridgestone was actually Gnash's lunch; as legend has it, Gnash's freezer was broken, and the cat, looking for a

place to keep his fish cool, chose the hockey rink, thus inadvertently starting one of the greatest traditions in the National Hockey League; and

WHEREAS, some or none of the preceding anecdotes may be genuine, but what is uncontestably true is Gnash's ongoing popularity as the mascot of the Predators, as he is a major factor in Bridgestone Arena being packed to capacity most nights; and

WHEREAS, this prehistoric feline is most worthy of our approbation on this special occasion; 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 congratulate Gnash on his twenty-fifth anniversary as the mascot of the Nashville Predators and thank him for inspiring the crowd at Bridgestone Arena to "make some noise for the boys."

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.