

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 962

By Vital

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Southern Adventist University on the occasion of its 130th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the General Assembly should recognize those exemplary educational institutions that have made significant contributions, through an abiding commitment to excellence, to their respective communities and this State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy institution is Southern Adventist University, which is celebrating its 130th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, a private Seventh-day Adventist college in Collegedale, Southern Adventist University offers associate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees and is accredited by multiple organizations, including the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; and

WHEREAS, known for its emphasis on Adventist beliefs and conservative religious and social practices, Southern Adventist University was founded in Graysville in 1892 as Graysville Academy; the first Adventist school in the South, the Seventh-day Adventist Church officially took over the operation of the school in 1893; and

WHEREAS, in November 1897, the church's district conference voted to change the school's name to Southern Industrial School, with the new name reflecting a change in the school's emphasis. Industries were established at the school, including a wagon and blacksmith shop, a broom shop, a printshop, and a school farm, which grew peaches, pears, and many types of berries and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, from 1901 to 1916, the school was operated as Southern Training School and offered fourteen grades of instruction; and

WHEREAS, eventually, the school outgrew its seven-acre Graysville campus, and plans were made to relocate the college program to a 285-acre farm at Thatcher's Switch east of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, although relocating from Graysville to Thatcher's Switch involved moving most of the school's equipment, livestock, and implements to a new site some fifty miles away, the school was reopened at its new location in October 1916; the community was soon renamed Collegedale and the school as Southern Junior College; and

WHEREAS, at first, the school taught only students in grades one through twelve and had a total enrollment of fifty-nine students; by 1918, however, three students were taking post high-school-level classes, and total student enrollment had climbed to 175; and

WHEREAS, in 1944, the Seventh Day Adventist General Conference Spring Council voted for Southern Junior College to become a four-year college, with the name, Southern Missionary College, being chosen by members of the college board, the union educational board, and the college faculty; and

WHEREAS, enrollment that first year was the highest to date at 436 students, with the theology, teaching, and pre-nursing departments having the largest enrollment; industries that helped students earn their tuition included a wood shop, a broom factory, a printing press, and a farm; and

WHEREAS, the word "Missionary" was dropped from the school's name in 1982, and in 1996, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools granted approval for Southern College to become an accredited Level III institution, allowing the school to confer master's degrees. By September of that year, the college's constituency approved a name change to Southern Adventist University; and

WHEREAS, today, with an enrollment approaching 3,000 students and a student-faculty ratio at 16:1, Southern Adventist University offers eighty-one undergraduate degrees with sixty

majors, thirty-eight minors, and two one-year certificate programs; it also offers master's degrees in business, computer science, education, psychology, nursing, religion, and social work; and

WHEREAS, *U.S. News & World Report* has identified Southern Adventist University as a "Top Tier" institution for twenty consecutive years and as the most diverse regional university in the South; and

WHEREAS, for 130 years, Southern Adventist University has equipped its students to embrace biblical truth, embody academic and professional excellence, and pursue Spirit-filled lives of service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Southern Adventist University on the occasion of its 130th anniversary, commend its administration, faculty, and staff, both past and present, for their dedication to the highest tenets of education, and extend to them 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.