

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 986

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Orange Mound Progressive Club on the occasion of its 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pay tribute to those exemplary organizations that work with purpose and conviction to improve the quality of life in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, one such esteemed organization is the Orange Mound Progressive Club, a philanthropic group of African-American women that has served Memphis and the Orange Mound community for 105 years; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1919 by two intrepid women from the Orange Mound community, the group soon grew to a membership of thirty dedicated Christian women who started upon a path of service; it has operated continuously since that time, with members supporting the community for generations in whatever ways they could, including sending flowers and food to the bereaved and money and clothing to those in need; and

WHEREAS, the club was founded on three principles: inspiring interest in the community by giving assistance to needy families and charitable organizations, generating an atmosphere of cohesiveness among club members, and creating wholesome and economical recreational activities in Orange Mound; and

WHEREAS, in its early years, the club served the community through a counseling program for young girls and unwed mothers and sponsorship for the Nat Buring Orange Mound Learning Center, through both monetary donations and volunteering; and

WHEREAS, the club is self-sustaining, with members paying monthly dues that fund charitable donations; organizations that have benefited from the club's generosity include

LeMoyne-Owen College, St. Mary's Cathedral's SMART program, the Orange Mound Collaborative, the Mid-South Food Bank, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and The Sickle Cell Foundation of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Orange Mound Progressive Club is invitation only, restricting membership to legacies and friends of members, which preserves the club's mission and cohesiveness; several members are second- or third-generation legacies; and

WHEREAS, the club currently has twenty-three members, all of whom share a love for Memphis and the Orange Mound Community and operate under the motto "Help me Lord that I may live my life in such a way, that those who might be following me will not be led astray"; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the Orange Mound Progressive Club take compassionate action to ensure that their fellow Tennesseans have the opportunity to thrive; and

WHEREAS, it is our privilege to honor this most venerable and historic group on this momentous 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 commend the Orange Mound Progressive Club on the occasion of the group's 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary, extending our gratitude for its continued contributions to the community and our best wishes for every 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.