

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1098

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Commissioner Henri Brooks, Fourth Annual Living Legend Awards honoree.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated their time and energies toward enhancing the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Commissioner Henri Brooks, who is being honored at the Fourth Annual Living Legend Awards in recognition of the leadership and service she has provided to the people of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Memphis public schools, Henri Brooks received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Memphis and attended the Nashville School of Law; and

WHEREAS, a community activist and organizer for more than three decades, Commissioner Brooks has an extensive career of public service, having begun her years of industry as a public school teacher, where her commitment to children's due process rights led to her historic efforts that led to the investigation of the Shelby County Juvenile Court by the Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, in August 2006, Henri Brooks was elected to the Shelby County Board of Commissioners, where she worked to build and improve the greater Shelby County area through her service on the Core City Committee, the Neighborhoods and Housing Committee, the Community Services Committee, and the Brownfield Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, she rendered fourteen years of sterling service as a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives, where she chaired the House Constitutional Protections

and Criminal Practices and Procedures subcommittees and the Children and Gun Safety Study Committee; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure in the General Assembly, she served as chair of the Tennessee Black Caucus and the Caucus Title VI Committee, and she sponsored the first state-level legislation in the nation to enforce Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in all federally funded entities; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Leadership Memphis, Commissioner Henri Brooks has received a multitude of prestigious honors, including the Ruby Wharton Award for Outstanding Woman for Youth & Delinquency Advocacy, the Memphis and Nashville Branch NAACP Merit Award, the Addie G. Owen Award for Racial Justice in the Community, the Golden Iris Award, the Mid-South Peace and Justice Public Policy Award, the Black Business Association Advocate of the Year Award, the Rosa Parks Award, and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Award; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Commissioner Brooks has been committed to excellence and community service, and she should be specially recognized; 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 congratulate Commissioner Henri Brooks upon her recognition at the Fourth Annual Living Legend Awards, applaud her outstanding community leadership, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend our best wishes for continued success in her future endeavors.

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.