

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1168

By Behn

A RESOLUTION to honor the Nashville Sounds' First Horizon Park upon its recognition as a top ten minor league ballpark.

WHEREAS, Nashville is exceedingly proud to be the home of First Horizon Park, which was recently named among the top ten minor league ballparks in the nation by *USA Today*; and

WHEREAS, to determine the top ten, *USA Today* enlisted industry experts to supply a list of selections; from there, editors picked a list of nominees, and readers had four weeks to vote for their favorites; and

WHEREAS, located in the Germantown neighborhood of Nashville, First Horizon Park was established on the site of the old Sulphur Dell baseball park, which hosted baseball games starting in 1870, including Negro League teams and Minor League Baseball teams, most notably the Nashville Vols; and

WHEREAS, originally called First Tennessee Park, ground was broken on the \$91 million project in January 2014; former Mayor Karl Dean was the driving force behind the proposal for the stadium, which replaced Herschel Greer Stadium, and the Nashville Metro Council approved the funding; and

WHEREAS, home to the Nashville Sounds, the park opened on April 17, 2015, to a sellout crowd of 10,459 who watched the Sounds, then a minor-league affiliate of the Oakland A's, defeat the Colorado Springs Sky Sox 3-2 in 10 innings thanks to a hit by Max Muncy; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its minor league home team, the ballpark has hosted games for the Savannah Bananas, baseball's version of the Harlem Globetrotters, as well as Vanderbilt University, Belmont University, and the University of Tennessee baseball teams; and

WHEREAS, apart from its legendary field and iconic guitar-shaped scoreboard, Nashville Sounds Stadium also offers a Fun Zone, where kids can play the 9-hole mini golf course, see who throws the fastest pitch, and play wiffle ball; and

WHEREAS, the park also features The Band Box, located beyond right field; a popular gathering place for fans who like to play games while they watch the game, the space includes corn-hole, foosball, ping-pong, and shuffleboard, along with an outdoor bar; and

WHEREAS, in its nine years of existence, Nashville Sounds Stadium has revived Music City's love for America's favorite pastime, becoming an iconic part of the city's social and physical landscape in the process; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we recognize First Horizon Park as it basks in the glow of this elite honor; 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 the Nashville Sounds' First Horizon Park upon its recognition as a top ten minor league ballpark by *USA Today*, extending our best wishes for the continued success of this Nashville landmark.

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.