

SENATE BILL 634

By Campbell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15,
Chapter 2, relative to special days of observance.

WHEREAS, Father Charles Frederick Strobel was a Nashville native, grew up in the Germantown neighborhood, and fostered deep connections within the community and churches in the area; and

WHEREAS, Father Strobel believed in living his faith on a daily basis, pulling inspiration from the Sermon on the Mount, among other holy texts and divine inspirations; and

WHEREAS, upon becoming a priest, Father Strobel quickly and effectively set his sights on bettering the lives of the homeless and impoverished by opening up a school for homeless people so they could have a warm place to stay at a time when endemic poverty and other social concerns were impacting Tennessee and the nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Father Strobel founded the Room in the Inn, a sanctuary opened in a church parking lot in the winter of 1985; and

WHEREAS, the Room in the Inn has since blossomed into a national model for assisting the homeless, with over 200 congregations and 7,000 volunteers that shelter nearly 1,500 individuals from November 1 to March 31 of each season; and

WHEREAS, this state seeks to honor Father Strobel and how he combatted homelessness to enact positive change, and created programs for the homeless that have become a successful model for the entire nation; now, therefore

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15, Chapter 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

March 13 of every year is observed as "Father Charles Strobel Day", to honor his mission and the valiant and noble strides Father Charles Frederick Strobel took to combat homelessness in Tennessee, and the positive impact his efforts have had nationwide.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.