

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 132

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend H. E. Bittle and Steve Lewis for initiating the Melton Hill Lake River Rescue Cleanup.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those citizens whose abiding commitment to excellence and dedication to environmental stewardship are a credit to their respective communities and this State; and

WHEREAS, two such outstanding Tennesseans are H. E. Bittle and Steve Lewis, who initiated the Melton Hill Lake River Rescue Cleanup twenty-five years ago; and

WHEREAS, in the years since, Melton Hill Lake has become a much cleaner body of water, with scores of volunteers pitching in to remove everything from tires to abandoned fishing boats during the annual event; and

WHEREAS, during a recent cleanup, an estimated 160 tons of trash were removed from Melton Hill Lake in one weekend; and

WHEREAS, sited on the Clinch River near Oak Ridge, the Melton Hill reservoir features two boat ramps, one below the dam and one above, providing easy access to a lake well known for its fishing, with such game fish as sauger, crappie, and bass in abundance; and

WHEREAS, the annual Melton Hill Lake River Rescue Cleanup has ensured the continued viability of the lake as an important recreational attraction and economic driver in the community; its clean waters have enabled the lake to serve as home to a nationally recognized rowing course, a spring training site for collegiate rowing teams from throughout the eastern United States, and host to a number of national rowing championships; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of their admirable efforts in establishing the Melton Hill Lake River Rescue Cleanup and stalwart dedication to the event's continuing success, H. E. Bittle

and Steve Lewis will be honored during a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration to be held at the conclusion of this year's cleanup on March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Oak Ridge Rowing Association facilities at the marina; and

WHEREAS, H. E. Bittle and Steve Lewis are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend H. E. Bittle and Steve Lewis for establishing the Melton Hill Lake River Rescue Cleanup, applaud their outstanding efforts to keep Melton Hill Lake a clean and healthy destination, and congratulate all the many dedicated volunteers whose hard work over the years has made the annual lake cleanup such a success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.