

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 180

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Woodcuts Gallery and Framing on the occasion of its thirty-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should recognize and commend those exemplary businesses that, through an abiding commitment to excellence, have contributed greatly to this State for many years; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding company is Woodcuts Gallery and Framing, which recently celebrated thirty-five years of dedicated service to the good people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, founded by Nathaniel Harris, Woodcuts Gallery and Framing is an art gallery and frame shop striving to change the course of economic development on Jefferson Street; and

WHEREAS, a native of historic North Nashville, Nate Harris developed a love for woodworking as a child and inherited his love for entrepreneurship from his father, who passed away when Mr. Harris was eight years of age; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Tennessee State University, Mr. Harris began a career in engineering, but he still gravitated toward woodworking; he began crafting picture frames and made cabinets for Genesco's Jarman shoe stores after hours; and

WHEREAS, his wife, Brenda, began sharing her framed cross-stitch artwork with her coworkers, and requests for framing poured in; as word spread, Mr. Harris's garage-based woodworking shop took over his house and, at the suggestion of his wife, he sought a retail location to expand his business; and

WHEREAS, his diamond in the rough was the vacant, dilapidated building at 1613 Jefferson Street, which, having previously served as a place to purchase delicious hamburgers,

was riddled with hypodermic needles and trash, having been reduced to a refuge for drug addicts; and

WHEREAS, Nathaniel Harris, nevertheless, had a vision to create a business in the heart of the neighborhood he loved; he put his construction background and experience as a draftsman to use and, with the help of his wife, daughter, and other family members, worked nights and weekends to ready the building for business; and

WHEREAS, after many nights of hard labor and several financial investments, Mr. Harris opened Woodcuts Gallery and Framing to the public on September 23, 1987; he has used his own workspace as an example of what can be done with old, vacant buildings in disrepair; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Nate Harris and his gallery have received recognition locally from Jefferson United Merchants Partnership (J.U.M.P.), which Mr. Harris served as the first president, the NAACP, and the Greater Nashville Black Chamber of Commerce. The gallery has also received national recognition from *Décor* and *Upscale* magazines; and

WHEREAS, Woodcuts Gallery and Framing has operated with acumen and integrity for thirty-five years, and we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud this outstanding business for its ongoing commitment to excellence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Woodcuts Gallery and Framing on the celebration of the company's thirty-fifth anniversary and applaud its ongoing legacy of integrity and commitment to excellence.

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.