

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 749

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Juanita Alene
Branstetter upon being named a Super Senior
by the *Morgan County News*.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee relies upon the knowledge, strength, and energy of our senior citizens, who enrich our families with their love and guidance, serve as our neighbors and support our community, and remind us that kindness and patience always prevail; and

WHEREAS, all senior citizens, whether actively involved in business and community affairs or quietly devoted to their families and neighbors, deserve our gratitude and respect, as they have shared with us the acquired wisdom of the ages and have shown us the meaning of integrity; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of our State's senior citizens and the many contributions they have made to our society, the *Morgan County News* staff nominated three Super Seniors in Morgan County, paying tribute to an outstanding group of Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Juanita Alene Branstetter, fondly called "Rusty" ever since grade school because of her fiery mane, is one such estimable individual who was recently named a Super Senior; and

WHEREAS, born on November 25, 1928, Mrs. Branstetter is the oldest of nine children born to Click and Minnie Juanita Colvin Lowery, who taught her the value of hard work and service to others; and

WHEREAS, after spending her formative years in Howards Chapel and Madisonville, her family eventually settled in the Deer Lodge Chestnut Ridge area of Morgan County, where she would catch the eye of Eugene Branstetter, one of the community's dashing young gentlemen; and

WHEREAS, the loving couple was married in 1946 and enjoyed sixty-one years of wedded bliss until Mr. Branstetter went onto his final reward in 2006; and

WHEREAS, always displaying patience, compassion, and love, Rusty Branstetter chose a challenging but rewarding occupation, that of homemaker, and wholly devoted herself to raising their seven children, each of whom have graduated from Sunbright High School and have gone on to excel in his or her particular field; and

WHEREAS, since the late 1960s, she has served with acumen and alacrity as a correspondent for the *Morgan County News*, skillfully composing the widely-read column, "Chestnut Ridge"; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated civic leader, Mrs. Branstetter has devoted her time and energies to a host of community organizations throughout her life, including rendering sterling service as the vice-chairman of the Farmer's Home Administration and a member of the PTA, Board of Directors for Life Center, Morgan County Agriculture Committee, and FCE Home Demonstration Club; and

WHEREAS, Rusty Branstetter is also a woman of faith and a devout member of the Pleasant Green Church of the Nazarene, which can be seen from her front porch; and

WHEREAS, in her free time, Mrs. Branstetter enjoys raising a garden and canning green beans, but her passion is partaking in the time-honored tradition of quilt-making and relishing the precious moments spent with family and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, she is the proud mother and mother-in-law of Sue and George Clark, Ann and Glen Freytag, Jeannie and Phillip Ward, Mary Alice and Larry Morgan, Patty and Clay Donhue, David and Angie Branstetter, and Sandra Gail Branstetter; and is the revered matriarch of sixteen grandchildren and a plethora of great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens are part of a timeless generation which serves as a treasured link to a community's history and traditions, and their positive contributions of courage, hard work, and unwavering devotion to family and community are immeasurable; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize Tennessee's senior citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the *Morgan County News* staff in honoring and commending Juanita Alene "Rusty" Branstetter upon being recognized as a Super Senior, thank Mrs. Branstetter for her tireless devotion to serving the good people of Morgan County, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success in all 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.