

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 816

By Bell

A RESOLUTION to honor the Run Now Relay team members on their Run To Boston.

WHEREAS, for generations, from the War of 1812 to the Alamo to the present, the people of Tennessee have answered the call for volunteers by helping those in need, and the Run Now Relay running team of Cleveland, Tennessee, is proving that volunteerism is still alive and well in The City of Spirit and the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, twenty-seven men and women from Cleveland have joined together to form the Run Now Relay team in support of their brothers and sisters involved in last year's tragic Boston Marathon bombing; and

WHEREAS, this volunteer effort by the Run Now Relay team, which includes an epic eight-day relay run starting in Cleveland, Tennessee, and ending in Boston, Massachusetts, aims to raise awareness about the ongoing issues victims of the Boston bombings continue to face and presents an opportunity to raise funds to support those victims and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Run Now Relay team is leaving Tennessee on April 12, 2014, and arriving in Boston on April 20, which is Patriots Day, when the Boston Marathon is held; the team is being accompanied by support vehicles as they run non-stop, twenty-four hours per day, through eight states and more than 1,000 miles, running through multiple major metropolitan areas, including Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York City; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, the group is traveling through the cities of Cleveland, Lenoir City, Knoxville, Morristown, Jonesborough, and Bristol and is also making stops in several small communities along the way, including the official halfway point of Madison, Virginia, population: 210; and

WHEREAS, the laudable goal of the run is to raise \$50,000 for two charities between Tennessee and Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, the Run Now Relay team has selected two charities with which to partner for their 1,000-mile-plus run; the first organization, the One Step Ahead Foundation, provides support and services for those children who lost limbs during the bombing at last year's Boston Marathon; the second charity, Dream Big!, serves disadvantaged girls by helping them get involved in local sporting activities; and

WHEREAS, the Run Now Relay team has received sponsorships that will cover most of the costs of the journey, and any remaining expenses are being paid for by the team itself to allow 100% of donations to equally benefit their partnering charities; and

WHEREAS, the twenty-seven outstanding Tennesseans who comprise the Run Now Relay team are: Dana Ayers, Jaime Lynn Barks, Don Bennett, Matt Carlson, Johnny Clemons, Britney Cooke, Yuri Davis, Corey Divel, Cameron Fisher, Brandon Fulbright, Miranda Fulbright, Fred Garmon, Duane Goff, Robert Green, Matt Jenne, Cindy Moore, Kyle Page, Matt Ryerson, Tricia Sherlin, E.K. Slaughter, Tim Spires, Melissa Steve, Nikki Thomas, Madison Torrence, Vanessa Torrence, Chris Wilds, and Ben Williams; and

WHEREAS, their support team includes Lee McChesney, Allen Nope, Robert Briggs, Ivey Lawrence, Mike Watkins, Teddie Bennett, Jason Hensley, and Clark Campbell; and

WHEREAS, Run Now Relay team members have turned a negative into a positive by opening their arms and their hearts to victims of the Boston Marathon bombing, and these fine people should be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the Run Now Relay team members and their support team on their Run To Boston, commend their volunteerism in support of the Boston Marathon bombing victims and disadvantaged youth, and wish them all the best as they make their more than 1,000-mile trek from Cleveland to Boston.

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