

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 861

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to recognize the 52nd Annual East Tennessee Rhyne Reunion in Maryville.

WHEREAS, homecomings are an integral part of our society, as they provide golden opportunities for people to celebrate their heritage while re-establishing their roots; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Volunteer State, who are always ready, willing, and able to support a good cause, are especially fond of homecomings and the good fellowship and fun that result from this quintessential form of Southern hospitality; and

WHEREAS, the 52nd Annual East Tennessee Rhyne Reunion this year in Maryville will be an historic event; in addition to the usual festivities, the Rhyne family will be setting a monument to their first ancestor, Michael "Constable Mike" Rhyne, who settled in Blount County circa 1830; and

WHEREAS, Michael Rhyne's ancestral roots can be traced to Blankenlock, Germany where the first Reinau or Rhyne, named Bartel, was a herder or oxen driver; and

WHEREAS, his son, Hans Martin Reinau, came to America before the Revolutionary War in 1738, and the family settled in York, Pennsylvania, an area with a large German population; and

WHEREAS, Hans' son, Jacob, was born in Germany, but married Elizabeth Glatfelter from Switzerland in America; and

WHEREAS, in 1754, Jacob and Elizabeth Reinau moved to North Carolina; there they acquired nearly 1,000 acres of real property which they cleared and farmed; and

WHEREAS, Michael Rhyne was born in Lincoln County, North Carolina, to Phillip and Hannah Hoyle Rhyne on June 11, 1788; and

WHEREAS, known as "Constable Mike" by his friends and neighbors, Michael Rhyne was apparently involved in law enforcement on this new frontier which could often be a lawless place; and

WHEREAS, at twenty-one years of age, Michael Rhyne married Barbara Withers, and the couple was blessed with ten children; eighteen years later, Barbara died, leaving behind children of varying ages, including a two-year-old; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the customs of the time, Michael Rhyne then married his cousin, eighteen-year-old Margaret Hoyle, and produced another ten offspring, some of whom were born in North Carolina and some in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the reason that Michael Rhyne moved over the mountains to Tennessee is not clear; however, he lived in Blount County near the Loudon County line circa 1830; and

WHEREAS, although his burial place is not known, the force of Michael Rhyne's life has far surpassed the details of his death; his descendants have spread to all fifty states of the Union and have distinguished themselves in a wide variety of professions, but mostly as ordinary hard-working men and women; and

WHEREAS, since the first Reinau, Hans Martin, came to America some 300,000 descendants have been born; most of the Rhyne family hails from humble origins, but several have attained notable status; and

WHEREAS, a longtime friend of President Richard Nixon, Charles S. Rhyne served as president of the American Bar Association and was twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in international law; and

WHEREAS, home is where the heart is, and thus Maryville, Tennessee, will serve as the interim home for the large and diverse Rhyne family this summer as they pay tribute to their common ancestor, Michael Rhyne; 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 recognize and salute the 52nd Annual East Tennessee Rhyne Reunion

in Maryville and commend the Rhyne family for paying proper homage to their first ancestor, Michael Rhyne, during this historic event.

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