

SENATE RESOLUTION 21

By Norris

A RESOLUTION to honor the Phoenix Club of Memphis upon its sixtieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those exemplary clubs and organizations that are comprised of concerned citizens who are dedicated to improving the quality of life in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable organization that evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all its endeavors is the Phoenix Club of Memphis, which celebrates its sixtieth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, the Phoenix Club began as a young men's civic organization known as the 20-30 Club; the group met for the first time on September 22, 1955; and

WHEREAS, when the 20-30 Club began to lose funds and focus in 1958, a majority of its members chose to reestablish the group as the Phoenix Club; and

WHEREAS, the Phoenix Club dedicated itself to raising money for the Boys Club of America, and for a number of years it organized numerous fundraisers, including a city-county basketball game, Front Street Theater ticket parties, rummage sales, the sale of greeting cards, and the sale of American flags; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, the Phoenix Club opened the first Boys Club in Memphis, known as the Barksdale Club; thanks to the Phoenix Club's continued fundraising success, two more clubs opened in 1967 and 1969, the Goodwill and Dixie Clubs, respectively; and

WHEREAS, with the help of a donation from the Phoenix Club, the Boys Club opened a camp on Sardis Lake, in Mississippi, in 1970; the camp was named Camp Phoenix in honor of the Phoenix Club. Each summer the camp serves up to 500 disadvantaged boys and girls; and

WHEREAS, since 1970, the Phoenix Club has raised funds for the opening of four more clubs: the Vollintine/Buckman Club in 1973, the Samelson Club in 1979, the Southside Club in 1990, and the Porter Club in 2001; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the Boys Club was opened to girls, becoming the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis; and

WHEREAS, the Phoenix Club was recognized for its fundraising efforts in 1999 when it was named "Outstanding Philanthropic Organization" in Memphis by the National Society of Fundraising Executives; and

WHEREAS, the Phoenix Club continues to sponsor numerous fundraising campaigns and events each year to continue its support of the Boys and Girls Clubs, including the annual Greeting Card Campaign, the Memphis Mardi Gras Party, the "Send a Kid to Camp" project, the Harbortown 5K, and the Wine and Cheese Party; and

WHEREAS, in addition to their own fundraisers, the Phoenix Club has participated in other charitable events in Memphis, including the Blues Ball and the Silver Bell Ball; and

WHEREAS, as befits their sterling reputation earned through sixty years of dedicated public service, the members of the Phoenix Club have worked countless hours to make their community a vibrant and compassionate place of which every resident can be proud; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join with the members of the Phoenix Club in celebrating the organization's sixtieth anniversary, commend them on six decades of exemplary service to the greater Memphis community, this State, and our nation, and wish them much continued success in their 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.