



State of Tennessee

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1163

By Representatives Johnnie Turner, Hardaway, Camper, Coley, Cooper, John DeBerry, Lois DeBerry, Kernell, Lollar, McManus, Larry Miller, Parkinson, Richardson, Todd, Towns, White

and

Senators Herron, Kyle, Marrero

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate LeMoyne-Owen College upon the celebration of its Sesquicentennial.

WHEREAS, LeMoyne-Owen College is on the cusp of celebrating its Sesquicentennial; and

WHEREAS, since its founding 150 years ago, LeMoyne-Owen College, the only Historically Black College and University in the State of Tennessee and one of only four HBCUs in the country to reach this auspicious milestone, has been a seminal institution of higher learning for Memphis, Shelby County, and the region; and

WHEREAS, LeMoyne-Owen's humble beginning as a Union Army camp school to teach freedmen and runaway slaves how to read and write is a testament to the beauty and necessity of empowering the oppressed and underprivileged through education and enlightenment; and

WHEREAS, LeMoyne-Owen College historically has had an internationally and racially diverse faculty, student body and curriculum since the 1930s that has included exchange programs with institutions in Africa and at Grinnell College and the universities of Iowa and Wisconsin here at home; and

WHEREAS, LeMoyne-Owen College's distinguished alumni include such pioneers as Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks and Ms. Velma Lois Jones – Dr. Hooks, the first African-American appointed to serve on the Federal Communications Commission, and Ms. Jones, an educator and human rights activist who was recently recognized by President Barack Obama as an unsung hero – have helped to shape their community, our State, and our Nation into abodes where the pursuit of justice and equality continues to thrive; and

WHEREAS, many of our State's most esteemed civic leaders are LeMoyne-Owen College graduates who serve in governmental, educational, and professional leadership positions across the city of Memphis, the State of Tennessee, and across the Nation. Speaker Pro Tempore Emeritus Lois DeBerry and Representatives Johnnie Turner, Larry Miller, and Joe Towns, Jr. – all LeMoyne-Owen graduates – presently serve in the Tennessee General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, LeMoyne-Owen College continues to be a relevant and necessary harbinger of justice and a beacon of enlightenment, preparation, and opportunity that empowers anyone who seeks higher learning and endeavors to use their talents, education, and determination to serve the greater community; and

WHEREAS, although LeMoyne-Owen College benefits from unwavering support from all races, faiths, and the United Negro College Fund, this institution is a state jewel with a rich legacy that must be protected, preserved, and proclaimed to ensure it remains vibrant for another 150 years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate LeMoyne-Owen College upon the celebration of its Sesquicentennial and wish it many more years of success.

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

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ADOPTED: MAY 1, 2012



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 2nd day of May 2012



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR