State of Tennessee

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 305

By Representative Larry Miller

A RESOLUTION to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Mary Alice Johnson Gandy.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mary Alice Johnson Gandy departed this earthly life in Memphis, Tennessee on March 29, 2009, at the blessed age of 106, to enter into eternal rest, causing great sorrow and loss to her family and many friends; and

WHEREAS, born on April 17, 1902, in Crawford, Mississippi, Mrs. Gandy married Mr. Joe Donahue Gandy, and to this sacred marital union, three boys were born; and

WHEREAS, a resilient woman after her husband passed away, Mrs. Gandy lived independently in her hometown of Crawford until her health failed, which caused her to move to Memphis to live with her grandson; and

WHEREAS, known as a great seamstress among her family and friends, Mrs. Gandy began sewing in her teenage years and continued to sew and alter clothes for people throughout her church, community, and surrounding areas, and she practiced this vocation until her health began to falter; and

WHEREAS, active in her faith, Mrs. Gandy was a member of Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and as a member of this church, she served in various church auxiliaries, including the Stewardess Board, Sunday School, and Missionary Society; and

WHEREAS, with Mrs. Gandy's transition to immortality, the rich legacy of love and Christian devotion was forever and indelibly etched into the hearts and memories of her loving survivors, including sons, Joe Gandy, Jr., Leo Gandy, and William Gandy, Sr.; ten grandchildren; thirty-one great-grandchildren; and numerous other family and many friends; and

WHEREAS, prior to her death, Mrs. Gandy voted for the first time in her life in the 2008 presidential election, and on that Tuesday in November, she proudly voted for Barack Obama; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gandy's vote in that historical election made both national and local news, and she was interviewed by radio stations, television stations, and newspapers; and

WHEREAS, after the election was over and Barack Obama was seeded to take the presidential oath, Mrs. Gandy received a personal invitation from the president-elect to attend the historic inauguration; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to commend the life and legacy of citizens who have marked their names in the books of history, such as Mrs. Gandy, who enjoyed a personal victory at 106 years of age upon seeing Barack Obama be sworn in as this nation's first African-American President; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Mary Alice Johnson Gandy, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

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: APRIL 30, 2012

BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES