

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. ____**

Introduced by: Frizzell

A HOUSE RESOLUTION honoring The Hendley Family Association, Inc. of Tennessee, on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary of its establishment in 1976 and the 167th Anniversary of its founding in Putnam County, Tennessee in 1835.

Whereas, The Hendley Family Association, was organized at a joint family reunion of the two sons of Adin M. Hendley, William Meredith Hendley and Francis Marion Hendley, both natives of Putnam County, Tennessee; their descendants gathered at the farm of Mr. Billy F. Hendley, located near Providence, Indiana, Johnson County, on Memorial Day, 1975;

Whereas, The Hendley Family Association, held an election of officers, which was certified November 22, 1975, which officers and the Association was inaugurated into existence January 1, 1976 the year of the United States Bicentennial;

Whereas, The Hendley Family Association's first elected executive officers were: the late Mr. Francis Marion "FRANK"



Hendley II, Ocala Florida; of the William Meredith Hendley Clan, National President, the late Mr. Emerson Holmes Hendley, Gloucester Point, Virginia; of the William Meredith Hendley Clan, Vice President; Mrs. Jullie T. Hendley, Indianapolis, Indiana; of the Francis Marion Hendley Clan, National Secretary, Mr. William H. Hendley, Indianapolis, Indiana; of the Francis Marion Hendley Clan, Association Genealogist;

Whereas, The Hendley Family Association's first board of directors were: representing the William Hendley Branch, the late former national president (1980-1981), Mr. Stephen Holmes Hendley, Gloucester Point, Virginia and former Vice President (1981), Mrs. Sarah Jane Stafford of Martinsville, Indiana, Morgan County. Representing the Francis Marion Hendley Branch, former national president (1978-1979), Mr. Billy Frank Hendley of Providence, Indiana, Johnson County and Mr. Fred A. Hendley, Sr. of Edinburgh, Indiana, Johnson County. Mrs. Sarah Jane Stafford and Mr. Fred A. Hendley are still serving the board;

Whereas, The Hendley Family Association's first Chief Elder as recognized in the Association BY-LAWS and later the Tennessee State Charter, upon the inauguration of officers of the Association, ascended upon Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Hendley Hale, native of Putnam County, Tennessee, member of the Francis Marion Hendley (her father) Clan, resident of La Place, Illinois, Piatt County, she served as the matriarch, until her passing on March 6, 1976, at the age of 97 1/2. She signed the oath of office for the first officers;

Whereas, The Hendley Family Association was chartered in the state of Tennessee on December 29, 1976, by the Honorable Joe C. Carr "MR. SECRETARY OF STATE," Secretary of State and native of Putnam County, Tennessee, with the first executive officers and members of the board of directors as original signatories to the charter;

Whereas, The Hendley Family Association, Inc. of Tennessee, elected its first Tennessean as national president in 1977. Mr. Billy Frank Hendley, native of Hilldale, Tennessee, Macon County, the sponsor of all three family reunions (1)



1972, Banta, Indiana, Johnson County; (2) 1975, joint family organizing reunion, Providence, Indiana, Johnson County; and (3) 1976, Bicentennial reunion of the Francis Marion Hendley Clan; first board of directors, original charter signatory, national president 1978-1979;

Whereas, The Hendley Family Association, Inc. of Tennessee was recognized by the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee, by a resolution of Remembrance (R95-1531), of the first national president, the late Francis Marion "FRANK" Hendley II, who resided in Nashville, Tennessee from 1946-1952. Mayor Philip Bredesen, signed the Resolution on February 22, 1995, in honor of Mr. Hendley's 78th birthday, February 24, 1995;

Whereas, The Hendley Family Association, Inc. of Tennessee, in honor of its inauguration, was presented an official Tennessee State Flag, by the late former State Representative Tommy Burks of Putnam County, on behalf of the state of Tennessee, February 13, 1976; this flag was posted on the front lawn of Mr. Billy F. Hendley's home, during the 1976 reunion of the Francis Marion Hendley branch of the Hendley Family Association; later State Senator Tommy Burks was duly recognized as an honorary member of the Hendley Family (June 14, 1989), and continued to be its official sponsor in the Tennessee State Senate until his passing;

Whereas, The Hendley Family Association, Inc. of Tennessee adopted the quote from former Governor Ned Ray McWherter's first inauguration address, January 17, 1987: "IT IS APPROPRIATE TODAY THAT WE PAUSE TO REMEMBER WHO WE ARE, WHERE WE CAME FROM AND WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT," as the official family motto;

Whereas, The Hendley Family Association, Inc. of Tennessee was duly recognized by the ninety-sixth Tennessee General Assembly (SJR #128) in 1989, honoring the long heritage of the Great Hendley Family of Tennessee and noting its continuous presence within the State of Tennessee;



Whereas, The Hendley Family Association, Inc. of Tennessee, under the leadership of current national president William H. Hendley of Indianapolis, Indiana, jointly with descendants of Nancy C. Hendley Shanks, eldest daughter of Adin M. and Elizabeth Jane (Gentry) Hendley, gathered for an honoring ceremony of the founding family at their former homestead and burial site, at Smellage Cemetery, near Boma, Tennessee, Putnam County, August 28, 1994;

Whereas, The Hendley Family Association, Inc. of Tennessee that exists today, was founded by Adin M. Hendley of Georgia and Elizabeth Hane Gentry "MOTHER OF THE GREAT HENDLEY OF TENNESSEE" (SJR #337, 1996, Tennessee's Bicentennial) of Jackson County (now Putnam County), Tennessee, when they were united in holy matrimony at the Hebron United Baptist Church of Christ (later known as Spring Creek and Twelve Corners) on June 18, 1835; and

Whereas, The Hendley Family Association, Inc. of Tennessee's last Tennessean to ascend as Chief Elder, was the late Mrs. Jewell Catherine Hendley Medley, native of Clay County, Tennessee, resident of Franklin, Indiana, Johnson County, who served as the family matriarch from August 28, 1998 to her passing on February 2, 1999.

Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That the House of Representatives of the Indiana General Assembly honors and commends The Hendley Family Association, Inc. of Tennessee, its officers, past and present, and its dedicated members for 25 years of public service, dedication to family and preservation of its Tennessee Heritage as citizens of the United States of America.



SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to send copies of this resolution to Mrs. Edna L. Tolbert, Chief Elder, The Hendley Family Association, Inc.; Mr. William H. Hendley, National President, The Hendley Family Association, Inc.; Mr. Ronald A. Hendley, Vice President, The Hendley Family Association; Mrs. Terri L. Webb, National Secretary, The Hendley Family Association, Inc.; Mrs. Linda Bess Hendley, Genealogist, The Hendley Family Association, Inc.; Mr. Fred A. Hendley, Mrs. Sarah J. Stafford, Mrs. Carol A. Eubank and Mr. Timothy H. Hendley, members, board of directors, The Hendley Family Association, Inc.; Tennessee Governor Don Sundquist; Tennessee State Senator Charlotte Gentry Burks; Tennessee State Representative Jere L. Hargrove and Mrs. Caroly Shanks Huddleston, Tennessee Registered Agent, The Hendley Family Association, Inc.

