

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 309

By Harper

A RESOLUTION to honor the 125th anniversary of the founding of Nashville General Hospital.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should permanently commemorate the 125-year legacy of patient care that Nashville General Hospital has provided to Middle Tennessee residents since 1890; and

WHEREAS, in 1879, the Nashville City Council authorized the construction of a new hospital to be built on the site selected where, in 1825, Marquis de LaFayette, a French aristocrat and military officer who fought for the United States in the American Revolutionary War, landed on the shores of the Cumberland River and was greeted by Andrew Jackson; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 1890, Nashville General Hospital formally opened its doors as a sixty-bed, four-ward acute care facility, built for a total construction cost of \$30,000, and that day received twenty-one patients from the local health department; and

WHEREAS, local press accounts described the new city hospital as an “elegant red brick building with towers, stone trim, and arched windows” that evoked “a stately sight high on the bluffs of the Cumberland River”; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Bower served as Nashville General Hospital’s first superintendent and, upon his appointment, advised the City that he may be found there “at all hours, day and night”; and

WHEREAS, the early patient census included individuals from several states and foreign countries, with professions ranging from chambermaids to soap makers to teamsters and saloon keepers; and

WHEREAS, due to a lack of professional nurses, Dr. Bower proposed, and then inaugurated, a school of nursing in 1892, the first such school between the Ohio River and New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, later historical highlights of Nashville General Hospital included the opening of a pediatric unit (1914); the construction of a new wing to house more patients bringing the bed capacity to 260 (1932); the building of the now iconic smoke stack; the launch of a tumor clinic, which was devoted to the early detection and treatment of malignant diseases (1940); the construction of World War II barracks that housed nurses training for military service; extensive remodeling under Mayor Ben West (1954); Nashville's first Well Baby Clinic and the opening of the area's first School of Radiologic Technology (1957); Nashville's first kidney transplant (1970); the establishment of the Maternal and Infant Care Program (MIC); the creation of a Nuclear Medicine Clinic (1976); a remodeled neonatal intensive care nursery (1981); the installation of a CAT Scanner (1982); and multiple technological upgrades, including implementation of one of the area's first electronic medical records systems; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Nashville General Hospital initiated a shared clinical affiliation with Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Meharry Medical School for the training of medical students and residents, which continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, in the mid-1990s, under Mayor Phil Bredesen's administration and with the leadership of Meharry Medical College president and future U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher and subsequent Meharry president Dr. John Maupin, Nashville General Hospital was moved to the site of the old Hubbard Hospital on the campus of Meharry Medical College, one of the nation's oldest and largest historically black academic health science centers dedicated to educating physicians, dentists, researchers, and health policy experts; and

WHEREAS, Nashville General Hospital's partnership with Meharry Medical College has ensured that hundreds of physicians, dentists, and researchers have enjoyed a top-tier education, while at the same time providing exceptional care to every patient who obtains services at Nashville General Hospital; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that this General Assembly recognizes Nashville General Hospital on its 125th anniversary; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Nashville General Hospital on its 125th anniversary in providing exceptional care to patients across Middle Tennessee and extend to the Hospital's Board of Trustees our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the Board of Trustees and Mr. Joseph Webb, D.Sc., Chief Executive Officer of Nashville General Hospital with this final clause omitted from such.