

2016 SESSION

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 239

Celebrating the life of Georgia Massengill Warren.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 10, 2016

WHEREAS, Georgia Massengill Warren, a woman of faith and a devoted wife and mother who participated in the 1927 Bristol Sessions that are a renowned part of the nation's country music heritage and was its last remaining survivor, died on March 6, 2016, at the age of 100; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Warren was born in 1915 on a farm in Bluff City, Tennessee, and loved music and singing; in 1927, at age 11, she and her parents traveled to Bristol, where she sang with the Tennessee Mountaineers at what became known as the 1927 Bristol Sessions; and

WHEREAS, at the Sessions, Georgia Warren, together with a group of community residents and church members, recorded two songs which can still be heard today; the 1927 Bristol Sessions, which included performances from many Appalachian musicians, were the precursor of today's commercial country music industry; and

WHEREAS, during her lifetime, Georgia Warren loved farming and gardening; she was a talented gardener and tended her flower and garden beds until she was 97; she lived in California for a time, and was a substitute teacher; and

WHEREAS, a woman of great faith, Georgia Warren was a charter member of First Christian Church of Bluff City, where she enjoyed fellowship and worship; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Warren was predeceased by Paul, her husband of 49 years, and a daughter, Edith; she will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by her daughter, Nancy, and her family; and many other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Georgia Massengill Warren of Bluff City, Tennessee, a devoted wife and mother who loved to farm and garden and who as a young girl recorded some of the earliest songs of the country music genre at the 1927 Bristol Sessions and was its last remaining survivor; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Georgia Massengill Warren as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for her memory.