



# State of Tennessee

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 54

By Representative Lois DeBerry

and

Senators Ford, Tate

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Rosalyn R. Nichols for being named the Starks Advancement Director at Memphis Theological Seminary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize Tennesseans who achieve remarkable accomplishments and faithfully endeavor to improve the well being of citizens within and beyond the borders of our great State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Memphis native Dr. Rosalyn R. Nichols, who has been selected as the new Starks Advancement Director at the Memphis Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Rosalyn Nichols is a proud honors graduate of historic Booker T. Washington High School and LeMoyné-Owen College in Memphis; in May 1996, after responding to a higher calling in her life, she graduated summa cum laude with a Master of Divinity from the Memphis Theological Seminary and in 2004, she earned the Doctor of Ministry degree from Virginia Union University in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nichols is a dynamic, passionate, and empathetic preacher, teacher, and pastor who believes that freedom in Christ gives one the liberty to live and the responsibility to serve; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, she founded Freedom's Chapel Christian Church and continues this day pastoring that mighty congregation, and the faith in God and works of servant leadership that are spawned within its walls reach a world of need, in the local community and far beyond; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nichols has travelled extensively, and has the distinction of being the first ordained clergywoman to serve as visiting professor at the Gweru Baptist Theological Seminary in Gweru, Zimbabwe South Africa; and

WHEREAS, profoundly impacted by the domestic violence-related death of a dear friend, this woman of action dedicated herself to the perfection of violence-free interpersonal relationship development; and

WHEREAS, through "A More Excellent Way", a non-profit organization developed by Dr. Nichols, more than a decade of her years was spent helping persons from all walks of life enter into and maintain spiritually healthy relationships; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nichols is a graduate of Leadership Memphis, a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a member of the Beta Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the recipient of the Memphis Community Leader Award, the Visionaries Trailblazer Award, and the imminent new Starks Advancement Director; and

WHEREAS, it is timely and appropriate that this legislative body give due recognition to a woman who is a true servant leader, so incredibly gifted with faith and social conscience, and so willing to meet people at their point of greatest need and minister to them; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Dr. Rosalyn R. Nichols for her being

**HJR 54**

selected as the Starks Advancement Director at Memphis Theological Seminary and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.


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

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 54

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 11, 2013



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2013



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR