



State of Tennessee

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 344

By Representatives Hardaway, Parkinson, Shaw, Love, Clemmons, Mitchell, Hodges, Freeman, Hakeem, Gloria Johnson, Lamar, Powell, DeBerry, Miller, Beck, Jernigan, Thompson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Zee Thomas of Teens4Equality for organizing a peaceful protest on June 4, 2020.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should salute those young citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as emerging community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable person is Zee Thomas, one of the leaders of Teens4Equality and an organizer of a peaceful protest held in Nashville on June 4, 2020, to push for social change in her city, her nation, and her world; and

WHEREAS, Teens4Equality is led by Jade Fuller, Nya Collins, Zee Thomas, Kennedy Green, Emma Rose Smith, and Mikayla Smith, who are all between fourteen and sixteen years of age; the organization partnered with Black Lives Matter to plan the June 4, 2020, rally in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, these six remarkable young women led the region's largest protest against racism and police brutality in recent memory, with an estimated 10,000 individuals in attendance; and

WHEREAS, the peaceful protest traveled around the downtown area, starting from Bicentennial Mall and progressing through downtown Nashville as they marched down Lower Broadway, across Legislative Plaza, and by the State Capitol on their return to Bicentennial Mall; and

WHEREAS, whether in the brutal heat or the pouring rain, Zee Thomas and the protestors who joined her had a simple message: "Not one more." and "No justice, no peace."; and

WHEREAS, the members of Teens4Equality stated, "As teens, we are tired of waking up and seeing another innocent person being slain in broad daylight. As teens, we are desensitized to death because we see videos of Black people being killed in broad daylight circulating on social media platforms. As teens, we feel like we cannot make a difference in this world, but we must."; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Thomas and the other organizers of Teens4Equality have set a positive example for our communities, our State, and our nation of peaceful protest while calling out racism; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Thomas has shown young people they can have a big political impact and reminded everyone of the importance of standing up against oppression and racism; and

WHEREAS, the future of the State of Tennessee is bright, thanks to youth such as Zee Thomas; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Thomas epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Zee Thomas for her many contributions to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and

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commend Zee Thomas of Teens4Equality for her exemplary efforts in organizing a peaceful protest in Nashville on June 4, 2020, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

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: June 15, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Sexton', is written over a horizontal line.

CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES