

Resolution to Establish August 18th as Febb Burn Day

WHEREAS Tennessee has the honor of being the “Perfect 36,” the crucial 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment granting women voting rights;

WHEREAS the Tennessee legislature was the focus of national attention and was subjected to intense lobbying by both sides;

WHEREAS the Tennessee Senate easily ratified, but the House appeared to be evenly divided;

WHEREAS a majority vote in the House was required to ratify the Amendment;

WHEREAS young legislator Harry Bum from East Tennessee was leaning toward voting against the amendment;

WHEREAS Harry Burn made a last minute decision on August 18, 1920 to vote for the amendment, breaking the tie and enfranchising women throughout the United States;

WHEREAS when he was called to answer for his change of heart Harry Burn attributed his actions to a letter written by his mother, Febb Bum, urging him to support the amendment.

WHEREAS when efforts were made to rescind the vote and representations were made that Harry had misunderstood his mother’s intent, Febb Burn urged him to “support suffrage to the end”;

WHEREAS Febb Bum’s actions demonstrate the power of a single person to influence the course of history.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we the _____
[name of group] urge the Tennessee legislature to formally designate August 18th of each year as Febb Burn Day in honor of her role in the enfranchisement of women.

President, _____

_____ On behalf of the membership