

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 534
By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION To honor and recognize the administration, faculty, staff and student body of Harding Academy for their outstanding tradition of educational excellence.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this legislative body pause in their deliberations to honor those educational institutions that bring outstanding efforts to fruition; and

WHEREAS, Harding Academy in Memphis is one such exceptional educational institution, the school's history of excellence cannot be denied; and

WHEREAS, Harding Academy is a Christian, college-preparatory, liberal arts, co-educational school with a forty-nine year tradition of quality and class, serving children as young as two through the completion of grade twelve; and

WHEREAS, Serving the greater Memphis area since its inception in 1952, Harding Academy has been, and still is, committed to offering its students a source of truth, strength, and vision for living in today's changing world; and

WHEREAS, Harding Academy is dedicated to fostering each student's academic excellence and faith in God through a Christ-centered education, which emphasizes intellectual, spiritual, social and physical development; and

WHEREAS, The educational units comprising Harding Academy include Early Childhood, a program for two- and three-year-olds at two locations; seven elementary schools; and a centrally-located junior-senior high school at Park Avenue and Cherry Road; pride is taken at all locations in the small class sizes that enhances both quality instruction and individual attention; and

WHEREAS, Harding Academy's students' achievement test scores consistently rank in the highest categories, when compared with the students of other schools, both private and public, both locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, Harding Academy's secondary program is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the elementary program is accredited by the Tennessee Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Harding Academy is also a member of the National Christian School Association, the Memphis Association of Independent Schools, the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, the West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association, the West Tennessee Vocal Music Educators Association, the Tennessee Music Educators Association, the Memphis-Shelby County Teachers of English, the Tennessee Council of Teachers of English, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics; and

WHEREAS, Harding Academy's goals for each and every student are to foster that student's faith in God, shaped by knowledge of the Holy Bible; to promote that student's academic excellence; to nurture that student's social and physical development; and to provide that student with a premier education with high-quality facilities, technology and resources, including high-quality teachers and staff; and

WHEREAS, Harding Academy is ably and expertly led in its mission and in pursuit of its goals by its President and CEO, Tom Dickson, a retired Colonel of the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, It was during his military career that Colonel Dickson's interest in educational leadership and organization was developed; he served as the Dean of Education and Curriculum at the Air Command and Staff College; and

WHEREAS, Despite its incredible and exemplary history, this legislative body is certain that Harding Academy's future will be brighter still; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Harding Academy upon its outstanding history of educational excellence, and wish the administrators, staff, students and teachers of Harding Academy every continued success in the future.

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