

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 175
By Cochran

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Coach Donald Ensor of Unaka High School, 2004 Tennessee Basketball Coach of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those coaches who have performed their duties with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and, through their magnificent exploits, have brought honor to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable coach is Donald Ensor of Unaka High School's Ranger basketball team, who was recently honored as the 2004 Tennessee Basketball Coach of the Year by the National Federation of the High School Basketball Association; and

WHEREAS, a renowned player in his own right, Coach Ensor was an outstanding basketball player in his youth; he was a key player on the first-ever Ranger team to participate in the state tournament in 1985, when he was also named to the all-conference, all-district, and all-regional teams during the same season; and

WHEREAS, a now legendary leader, Coach Ensor began coaching the varsity team at Unaka High School twelve seasons ago, and he has since proven to be a perfect fit for the program; and

WHEREAS, under his tutelage, the Rangers have amassed a spectacular record with 250 wins and 151 losses, which have included winning nine conference titles, six district championships, three regionals, two substates, and the 2004 Class A state championship; and

WHEREAS, as one whose skills and acumen have always been obvious to observers in the realm of high school athletics, Coach Ensor has served as President of the Watauga Conference for two terms and was named Watauga Valley Conference Coach of the Year eight out of twelve seasons; and

WHEREAS, for his extraordinary efforts, Coach Ensor was named the TSSAA 2003-2004 Coach of the Year for all classifications; and

WHEREAS, raw statistics, however impressive they may be, cannot come close to measuring his value as a coach; he is an exceptional motivator and teaches the sport as few men can; and

WHEREAS, adored and admired by his many great players, these devoted young men, speaking respectfully of their coach, express that “Donald is a great basketball coach but a much better person,” and “He taught me about pride and what it meant to give it your all. It was an honor to wear the Ranger uniform”; and

WHEREAS, though he has endured some down times as a head coach, Coach Ensor has learned to take the good and bad in equal parts, and he understands the virtues of being patient; during his tenure at Unaka High School, he has earned respect both on and off the court with uncommon diligence and skill; and

WHEREAS, in his years as the Rangers’ head Coach, Ensor has elevated the team to statewide prominence, and he has done it with a dignity and class that reflect the reputation he built as both an athlete and as a coach; and

WHEREAS, ably assisted on the bench by his brother, Johnny, as well as Richard Thomas, Coach Ensor has carried out his duties with the utmost acumen, alacrity, diligence, and character, and with an inspirational flair unique to him; he has earned the respect and admiration of his students and peers at Unaka High School and throughout this State; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, he is committed to maintaining the highest ideals of family and community values and is most grateful for the support, love, and companionship he shares with his wife, the former Stephanie Hardin, and their three beloved children, Brandy, Davey, and Daniel; and

WHEREAS, he is a faithful and devout member of Dungan’s Chapel Baptist Church and attends New Liberty Freewill Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, throughout his outstanding career, Donald Ensor has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate his students to reach their fullest potential; he exemplifies the

unquestionable character and stalwart determination that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Donald Ensor, highly respected coach, family man, and friend, of Unaka High School's Ranger basketball team for his honorable and astute service to the youth of this State and join with his family, friends, students, and fans in celebrating his most recent honor as 2004 Tennessee Basketball Coach of the Year by the National Federation of the High School Basketball Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we wish him much continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.