

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1011  
By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Rochelle Stevens  
upon being inducted into the Tennessee Sports  
Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school athletes who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has been blessed by a bounty of tremendous athletes and championship athletic teams, both amateur and professional, who have proudly represented the citizens of this State as honorable competitors, both on and off the field of play; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame was established to appropriately recognize those talented individuals and teams who have reached the elite rank of their competition, earning the deep respect and admiration of their teammates and competitors alike, while achieving excellence on the field of play and bringing success to themselves and their teams; and

WHEREAS, Rochelle Stevens was recently inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame on February 26, 2006, an honor most befitting her immeasurable accomplishments and contributions in the sport of track in Tennessee and the United States; and

WHEREAS, born on September 8, 1966, Rochelle Stevens is the daughter of Beatrice Davis, a state champion in high school and scholarship track star at the legendary Tennessee State University Track program; and

WHEREAS, a native and life-long resident of Memphis, Rochelle Stevens attended Melrose High School, where she was an All-American, and upon graduation, she accepted a college track scholarship at Morgan State University in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, at Morgan State, Rochelle Stevens was an eleven-time NCAA All-American, and in 1988, she won the NCAA Division-I 400 Meter Women's Title; she also placed second in the 400 Meter Race at the 1988 United States Outdoor Nationals; and

WHEREAS, after narrowly missing the United States Olympic Team in 1988, Rochelle Stevens hung up her track cleats; however, she returned to the sport after making a promise to win an Olympic gold medal to her sister, Catherine Holloway, who died of a brain tumor; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Ms. Stevens claimed the United States Indoor 200 Meter Championship, and in the 1992 Olympic Trials, Rochelle Stevens won the 400 Meter Race; and

WHEREAS, winning a silver medal in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Rochelle Stevens also won a gold medal at the 1995 World Championship in the 400 Meter Relay; and

WHEREAS, a woman of her word, Rochelle Stevens won a gold medal in the 4x400 Meter Relay in the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, a tremendous athlete dedicated to excellence in every endeavor, Rochelle Stevens retired from professional track in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Stevens has sponsored the Rochelle Stevens Invitational Track Meet in Memphis for the past seventeen years; the track meet is an all-age group event that attracts more than 2,000 athletes from ten states; and

WHEREAS, committed to the youth of this Nation, Ms. Stevens created the Rochelle Stevens Foundation, which helps inner city youth pursue a career in track by helping students with travel-related expenses, providing sports equipment, and donating college scholarship money; and

WHEREAS, Rochelle Stevens has conducted a Sports Clinic for twelve years at the Germantown Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Stevens is Chief Executive Officer for Health and Wellness Spa, a company which she owns and operates in Memphis, and she is an active member of the Word of Life Healing Ministry, which she has faithfully served for many years; and

WHEREAS, Rochelle Stevens epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans, and she 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 honor and congratulate Rochelle Stevens upon her induction into the  
Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, commend her meritorious service to the good people of the  
State of Tennessee, and wish her every success in all future endeavors.

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