

HOUSE RESOLUTION 85

By Todd

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Andy Fletcher for his dedication and excellence in umpiring.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those sports officials who, with great dedication, officiate the games that the sports fans of this great State love and enjoy watching; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable sports official is Andy Fletcher whose unwavering dedication to umpiring baseball games both fairly and correctly serves as a testament to his virtuous character; and

WHEREAS, attending Harry Wendelstedt Umpire School in Daytona Beach, Florida in 1989, Andy Fletcher began umpiring professional baseball with the Appalachian League in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Andy Fletcher umpired for the Single A Midwest League from 1990 to 1991, the Single A Carolina League in 1992, the Double A Southern League from 1992 to 1994, and the Triple A Pacific Coast League from 1995 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, during these years, Andy Fletcher umpired the 1991 Midwest League All-Star game at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and he umpired the 1994 Double A All-Star Game in Memphis, Tennessee featuring the Eastern League, the Southern League, and the Texas League; he also umpired the Triple A All-Star Game at Norfolk, Virginia in 1998 featuring the International League and the Pacific Coast League; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fletcher's post-season work includes the Florida Instructional League in 1989, 1990, and 1992, and he also umpired in the Arizona Fall League in 1997; and

WHEREAS, after his contract was purchased by the National League on July 26, 1999 from the Pacific Coast League, Andy Fletcher made his Major League Baseball umpire debut on

August 24, 1999 at historic Wrigley Field in Chicago, and he is entering his sixth year as a Major League Baseball umpire; and

WHEREAS, Andy Fletcher umpired National League Spring Training in 2000 and Major League Spring Training from 2001 to 2005; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2005, Mr. Fletcher umpired a Spring Training exhibition game in his hometown of Memphis, Tennessee between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Cincinnati Reds; and

WHEREAS, this game marked the first time Drew, Andy Fletcher's son, saw his dad umpire, and when asked who he was rooting for, Drew said, "I am rooting for my Daddy"; and

WHEREAS, the son of Carol and Riner Fletcher, Andy Fletcher has officiated football games with his father, who has been a football official for over thirty years; Andy was a member of the Memphis-Shelby County Basketball Officials Association and Mid-South Football Officials Association; and

WHEREAS, the only Major League Baseball umpire to come out of Memphis, Tennessee, Mr. Fletcher enjoys spending time with his loving wife, Andrea, and son, Andrew Jay II, in the off-season at his home in Olive Branch, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, one of the youngest members in the history of the Memphis Area College Baseball Umpires Association, Andy Fletcher will be working with Mike Reilly, Jeff Kellogg, and Paul Schrieber for the 2005 Major League Baseball Season; and

WHEREAS, being selected to officiate a Major League Baseball game is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a baseball umpire; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly commend the dedication to excellent umpiring that Andy Fletcher evinces; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and recognize Andy Fletcher for his deep commitment to umpiring both fairly and correctly and wish him 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.

