

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 515

By Fowler

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Girls Preparatory School's headmaster, student body, alumni, faculty, and staff on the occasion of the school's 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary educational institutions that have made significant contributions, through an abiding commitment to excellence, to their respective communities and this State; and

WHEREAS, the Girls Preparatory School (GPS) in Chattanooga is most assuredly one such noteworthy institution; over the past one hundred years, Girls Preparatory School has produced a number of outstanding graduates who have excelled in all walks of life and has remained a pillar of educational excellence since its founding in 1906; and

WHEREAS, the nation's largest independent day school for girls, GPS was founded by Miss Grace McCallie, Miss Tommie Payne Duffy, and Miss Eula Lea Jarnagin; and

WHEREAS, expressly founded for the purpose of making available to the girls of Chattanooga and its environs a well-rounded secondary education comparable to the best in any part of the country, the Girls Preparatory School evinces its dedication to providing students with a premier education through its mission statement: "Girls Preparatory School provides each girl a superior college preparatory school education in an inclusive and supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, personal motivation and a desire for knowledge. In partnership with parents, GPS encourages girls to develop the skills and attitudes of honorable, independent adults equipped to succeed in life and to contribute to the betterment of the world"; and

WHEREAS, in 1945, the school was incorporated, and a Board of Trustees was organized in accordance with the terms of the Charter: "For the purpose of conducting a school

founded on Christian principles, to prepare girls for college through academic training, and to fit them for useful lives in the home and in the affairs of the communities in which they live by instilling in them high principles of honesty, integrity, and consideration for others"; and

WHEREAS, the young women of Girls Preparatory School excel in all the many realms that make up the modern educational institution: academics, athletics, fine arts, and community service; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, GPS has sent over ninety-nine percent of its graduates to college or another form of higher education; over the past five years, 20 percent of the senior class has been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program; and

WHEREAS, the young women of the Girls Preparatory School also excel outside of the classroom: during the past seven years, each varsity athletic team has placed first or second in state competition, winning a total of ten state championship titles; and

WHEREAS, the GPS Fine Arts department boasts 45 classes in the middle and upper school, as well as the Arts Excel program, which has sponsored a year-long program of performances and lectures by guest artists, including the prestigious Alvin Ailey II Dance Company, sculptor Duane Paxson, a multi-media exhibit of works by well-known local artists, and improvisational workshops in writing, music, and acting by the Chattanooga State Repertory Theatre; and

WHEREAS, the young women of Girls Preparatory School endeavor to fulfill the school's mission statement and strive to effect change in the world through their actions; the student body of GPS has gone out into the community and completed such projects as finishing two Habitat for Humanity houses and raising over \$5,000 for the Komen Race for the Cure; and

WHEREAS, Girls Preparatory School has provided a quality education to some of our finest and most capable young women who have gone on to become leaders in their cities and states and who have achieved success in many different areas of life; and

WHEREAS, through the steadfast support of the greater Chattanooga community, Girls Preparatory School continues to be a bastion of excellence in academics and life, molding young minds into the scholars and leaders of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, the members of this body find it appropriate to pause in recognition and celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Girls Preparatory School; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Girls Preparatory School's headmaster, Randy Tucker, student body, alumni, faculty, and staff on the occasion of the school's 100th anniversary and wish them all the best in their 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.