

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 733

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo program.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those institutions that, through their extraordinary efforts and great service to the people of Tennessee, have made significant contributions to the State's rich heritage; and

WHEREAS, one such institution is the University of Tennessee at Martin, which has hosted and participated in rodeo competitions since the 1968-1969 academic school year; this year, the University of Tennessee at Martin will host its rodeo on April 10-12, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the school's first rodeo was held in 1969 on J.E. Cantwell's Golden Sunset Horse Ranch in Greenfield; over the years, the rodeo has been held in numerous locations, including the Obion County Fairgrounds, Bo Dodd's farm close to Martin, and the University of Tennessee at Martin's West Tennessee Agriculture Pavilion; and

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo team has enjoyed much success since its inception in 1968 and has won numerous awards and competitions; and

WHEREAS, the first rodeo team, composed of Glen Bruce, John Pettit, Tommy Sanders, Clint Callicott, Marvin Youngerman, and Danny Graves, won the school's first rodeo; and

WHEREAS, after joining the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) as a member of the Ozark Region in 1973, the team has consistently performed well in NIRA competition, as it went to the NIRA National Finals in 1974, won its first Ozark Region Championship in 1976, placed third in the nation in 1985, won consecutive Ozark Region Championships in 1986 and 1987 without losing in a regional rodeo, and the 1992 women's team finished third in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the team also distinguished itself in 1998 when it received the Rawhide Team Scholarship Award; and

WHEREAS, many individuals on the University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo team have also won renown; Skip Emmett became the team's first national champion in 1975, Tony Coleman won the NIRA national championship in 1977, Mike Merchant won the national saddle bronc riding title in 1985, Cody Matthews won the national steer wrestling championship in 1987, Staci Patterson won the regional barrel racing championship in 1993, Bret Gould and Frank Graves won NIRA's Collegiate National Finals Rodeo roping championship in 1993, and Lyndsie Brower earned recognition as the 2004 Reserve National All-Around Cowgirl; and

WHEREAS, Tony Coleman, in recognition of his great cowboy abilities and the importance of the rodeo team at the University of Tennessee at Martin, became the team's first full-time rodeo coach in 1991; and

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo program's spirit of competition and unwavering pursuit of excellence bring honor to the State of Tennessee, and the program is worthy of this Body's recognition; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the University of Tennessee at Martin's rodeo program for its distinguished traditions and its dedication to maintaining and enriching the heritage of the State of Tennessee, as we extend to it our best wishes for every future success.

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