

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 249

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Head Coach Carrie Daniels and the 2008-2009 Austin Peay State University women's basketball team on winning the Ohio Valley Conference tournament championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is proud to salute the accomplishments of the State's great collegiate athletic teams, those that work hard, make the necessary sacrifices, achieve success, and provide entertainment for large numbers of fans; and

WHEREAS, the 2008-2009 Austin Peay State University women's basketball team is one such estimable team; on March 7, 2009, under the capable direction of Head Coach Carrie Daniels, the Lady Gobs vanquished the Eastern Illinois University Panthers to win the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) tournament championship; and

WHEREAS, their victory is especially triumphant because, at the outset of the 2008-2009 season, the Lady Gobs were not expected to earn a berth in the conference tournament; the OVC preseason poll placed the Austin Peay team at number nine in a field of only ten teams; and

WHEREAS, at the time, their ninth-place position seemed quite reasonable given that the Lady Gobs had finished the previous season at number ten in what was then an eleven-team league and moreover, they had lost two starters from their roster and added six newcomers for the 2008-2009 season; and

WHEREAS, their schedule added even more reason to doubt the prospects for a good season: in addition to the challenges they would face from some truly talented OVC teams, the Lady Gobs were set to compete against nationally ranked basketball powerhouses Louisville

and North Carolina, and they were also scheduled to play tough games against Alabama, Miami, and Middle Tennessee State; and

WHEREAS, the season proved to be fraught with vicissitudes for the Lady Govs; throughout November and December, each win would be answered with a loss and though they enjoyed five straight wins in late January and early February, they then immediately suffered a string of losses; and

WHEREAS, despite that series of defeats, the Lady Govs did seem to be gathering momentum as the tournament approached and their last regular season game against Southeast Missouri, which they won in overtime, proved to be a launching point to their tournament victories; and

WHEREAS, the quarterfinal round saw Austin Peay playing Morehead State; this was a great way to start the tournament for the Lady Govs given that they had defeated the Eagles twice in regular season play; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Govs surprised Morehead with a season-high ten three-point field goals; known more widely for their inside presence, Austin Peay posted an exceptional yet characteristic 44-37 rebound advantage for the game, which they won 78-74; and

WHEREAS, in the semis, the Lady Govs faced Murray State, a team that had defeated them twice in the regular season; at their last meeting, on February 7, the Murray State Racers had demolished the Lady Govs 94-76; and

WHEREAS, if the Austin Peay women gave that last trouncing any thought at all, it served to push them harder to win; led by senior April Thomas, who put up a season-high twenty-five points for the game, every starter followed her into double-digit scoring territory that afternoon; and

WHEREAS, together, the Lady Govs posted a season-high ninety points in the semifinal; mustering a 90-84 win over the Racers when it counted the most, the Lady Govs moved on to the finals; and

WHEREAS, the first fifth-seeded team to advance to the tournament finals in OVC history, the Austin Peay Lady Govs were matched against yet another team that had swept

them in the regular season; their loss to Eastern Illinois on February 26 was still all too fresh;  
and

WHEREAS, in the championship final, both teams exhibited strong inside games, and by the end of regular play, they had managed a 48-48 tie; in the first overtime, neither team was able to resolve the contest; and

WHEREAS, in the second overtime, Austin Peay freshman Emily Pollock put the first five points on the board and with less than four minutes left, she hit a three-point goal, putting the Lady Gavs in the lead; and

WHEREAS, with just over a minute remaining in the second overtime, Ms. Pollock advanced her team's lead into double-digits with a pair of free throws, and the Lady Gavs ultimately won the contest 69-65; and

WHEREAS, thanks to their outstanding performances throughout the season and in the tournament, a number of Austin Peay Lady Gavs earned accolades; Co-captain April Thomas was honored as 2009 OVC Tournament Most Valuable Player, and she was named to both the OVC All-Tournament Team and the Second Team All-OVC; and

WHEREAS, sophomore Ashley Herring, another of the team's three Co-captains, joined Ms. Thomas on the 2009 OVC All-Tournament Team; and

WHEREAS, team Co-captain Nicole Jamen, a junior, was named to the 2008 Miami All-Tournament Team; and

WHEREAS, freshman Emily Pollock, who exhibited such remarkable skill and determination in the final against Eastern Illinois, was named to the OVC All-Tournament Team, while freshman Whitney Hanley was named to the OVC All-Newcomer Team; and

WHEREAS, in addition to those players already noted, the team roster includes: freshmen Jasmine Rayner, Charneisa Smith, Lauren Jones, and Nikki Talley; and sophomores Salem Richardson, Darcie Warner, Alex Bivens, and Brooke Faulkner; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Daniels was aided in her leadership by a highly capable pair of assistants, Marcus Payne and Laphelia Doss; the team also benefitted from the efforts of Graduate Assistant Charlotte Marshall, Assistant Athletic Trainer Seth Billings, and Team Managers JaQueya Yancey and Sarah Page; and

WHEREAS, displaying great sportsmanship and outstanding spirit, the Austin Peay Lady Gobs have conducted themselves in a manner appropriate to the integrity of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the State takes great pride in the tremendous accomplishments of those athletic teams that have succeeded both on the field and in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Head Coach Carrie Daniels and the 2008-2009 Austin Peay State University women's basketball team on winning the Ohio Valley Conference tournament championship 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.