

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 900

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Bobby “Bingo” Smith for his outstanding accomplishments during his legendary basketball career.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful 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, both amateur and professional, who have proudly represented the citizens of this State as honorable competitors; and

WHEREAS, one such exemplary athlete is Bobby “Bingo” Smith, whose Melrose High School #15 basketball jersey was officially retired, a most befitting recognition of his remarkable achievements in the arena of sports as a premier basketball player; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his distinguished athletic career and noteworthy efforts as a role model for Memphis youth, he was also recently inducted into the New Sardis Baptist Church Hall of Living Legends, and

WHEREAS, these humbling honors are bestowed on those few extraordinary athletes whose dazzling feats in the sporting arena have caused them to shine brightly in the eyes of their many fans and supporters; and

WHEREAS, originally from Memphis, Bingo Smith was an exceptional athlete at an early age, lettering in four sports, basketball, football, baseball, and track, while attending Melrose High School; and

WHEREAS, after graduating Melrose High School in 1965, Mr. Smith was the first African-American athlete to be recruited by the University of Memphis; choosing to play college

basketball at the University of Tulsa, Bingo Smith led the league in scoring while playing in the Missouri Valley Conference; and

WHEREAS, selected by the San Diego Rockets as the sixth overall pick in the 1969 National Basketball Association (NBA) draft, Bingo Smith played eleven seasons as a professional basketball player in the NBA, spending nine seasons with the Cleveland Cavaliers organization; and

WHEREAS, noted for his remarkable ability to score long range jump shots, Mr. Smith played his entire career prior to the institution of the NBA three-point shot, yet he still posted 10,882 career points, a feat nothing less than incredible; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious professional career, he also collected an astounding 3,630 rebounds, made 1,734 assists, and recorded an impressive .449 field goal percentage and a .798 free throw percentage; and

WHEREAS, as a testament to his athletic prowess and many talents, Mr. Smith has been awarded numerous honors throughout his career, including induction into the University of Tulsa Athletics Hall of Fame in 1984, and having his #7 basketball jersey officially retired by the Cleveland Cavaliers; and

WHEREAS, Bingo Smith, a man of true character and commitment, exemplifies dedication and leadership, and he is admired by his fellow Tennesseans for his tireless efforts to excel, always guided by solid principles and high standards, whether in the athletic arena or in the actions of his daily life; 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 honor and recognize Bobby "Bingo" Smith for his outstanding accomplishments during his basketball career, commend him for his substantial legacy as an athlete, 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.