

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 603

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to recognize Mercedes Marie Smith for her many achievements both on and off the golf course.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those student-athletes who, through their natural talents, have distinguished themselves both in and out of the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Mercedes Marie Smith, a student at Monterey High School, is one such exceptional young woman who has established herself as a highly skilled golfer, playing in more than 200 Junior Tournaments and being selected to represent the United States in the 2009 Teen World Golf Championships in Pinehurst, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, through diligent practice and steadfast commitment of time and talent, Mercedes has achieved outstanding success and has joined the ranks of the best and brightest student-athletes in Tennessee and our country; and

WHEREAS, in her remarkable golf career, Ms. Smith has enjoyed many impressive milestones, joining the United States Team for the Teen World Golf Cup, with which team she will battle other countries for the Team World Championship; and

WHEREAS, ranked nationally in her age group, Mercedes has won nineteen Junior Tournaments, finished in the Top Five in 110 Junior Tournaments, placed second in the 2003 and 2004 U.S. Kids Tennessee State Tournaments, and placed sixth in the Holiday Junior Nationals in Myrtle Beach; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, she ranked eighth in the U.S. Kids World Qualifier; in 2006, she was the champion and overall medalist in the Fall Caddie Championship, winner of the first annual Vince Gill Volunteer of the Year Award presented by the TGA, and won fourth place in the Holiday Junior Nationals; and

WHEREAS, always eager to learn and willing to adapt to any situation, Mercedes received a number of deserving awards in 2007; she boasted an incredible twenty-five wins to only two losses for her high school matches, placed third in her High School District, placed fourth in the High School Regional and High School State Tournament Qualifiers, and was named “Most Valuable Player” on the Monterey High School Golf Team; and

WHEREAS, a talented player possessed of a natural ability, Mercedes’s brilliance on the golf course shone especially bright in her 2008 season, during which she was Junior Masters Champion; during the same year, she was selected as a member of the Tiger Woods Foundation National Junior Golf Team, participated in the 2008 Callaway Junior World Championship in San Diego, maintained a high school record of twenty-six wins to only five losses, placed second in her High School District and fourth in her High School Regional Championship, and eagled a 290-yard par 4 and a 430-yard par 5 during her high school season; and

WHEREAS, during her 2008 season, Ms. Smith earned the lowest net average of anyone on her team, 37 for nine holes, and averaged 2,800 yards; and

WHEREAS, Mercedes is exceedingly grateful for the guidance and expertise of her instructor, Scott Sikorski, and her coach, Charles “Pokey” Looper; and

WHEREAS, aside from her many varied and distinguished awards for performance on the golf course, Mercedes Smith is an honor roll student who works assiduously to maintain an A average; she also gives of her time and many talents as an active member of her church and as a volunteer in her community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith is a remarkable student-athlete with an unmatched work ethic and an insatiable drive for excellence, and she truly is an ambassador for her city, this great State, and our nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Mercedes Marie Smith for her many signal accomplishments, both on and off the golf course, congratulate her upon being selected to

represent the United States in the 2009 Teen World Golf Championship, and extend to her our best wishes for every success and happiness in all her 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.