

SENATE RESOLUTION 149

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Gloria Ray on being one of the first five alumni to receive recognition on the Fulton High School Wall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor and recognize those citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Gloria Ray, who has been recently honored by the Fulton High School Alumni Association, which will place her name, along with four others, on the Association's new Wall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, the Fulton High Wall of Fame will include the names of graduates who have led outstanding professional lives and given back to their communities in significant ways; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ray and her fellow Wall of Fame inductees were honored at a banquet held April 30 at Rothchild Catering and Conference Center in Knoxville; Fulton's current Principal, Jon Rysewyk, served as the event's keynote speaker, and guests were also treated to a video presentation based on the inductees and their lives and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, the names of these five honorees will be inscribed on a wall on the second floor of the school, on the east side near the lobby and outside the auditorium; the spot was chosen because so many students, staff members, and visitors pass by that wall everyday; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Fulton High, Gloria Ray continued her education at East Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, she is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Knoxville Tourism and Sports Corporation (KTSC), a private, not-for-profit concern that has contracts with

the City of Knoxville and Knox County to strengthen the local economy by marketing the area as a destination for conventions, events, and leisure travel; and

WHEREAS, formed in 2002, KTSC grew out of a merger between Ms. Ray's former company, the Greater Knoxville Sports Corporation, and the Knoxville Convention and Visitor Bureau; it is estimated that KTSC annually generates a one-hundred-million-dollar-plus positive impact on the local economy; and

WHEREAS, a native Knoxvilleian and a trailblazer in her hometown, Ms. Ray was the first woman in the sixty-nine-year history of the Knoxville Utilities Board to serve as the Chairperson of its Board of Commissioners, and Ms. Ray was also the first woman to serve on the Executive Committee of the BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Gloria Ray was the first Women's Athletic Director, and during her tenure, she oversaw the Lady Vol's first national championship; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ray led the effort to plan and construct the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, the first and only hall of fame in the world devoted entirely to honoring achievement in the sport of women's basketball; and

WHEREAS, One Vision Plaza, Knoxville's new visitor center, is largely the result of her energy and imagination; located in the heart of the city's downtown area, One Vision Plaza brings together a number of local tourism initiatives while restoring and revitalizing a historic part of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her recent inclusion on the Fulton High School Wall of Fame, Gloria Ray has received many honors and accolades over the course of her storied career; she is a recipient of the American Marketing Association Professional Marketer of the Year Award, the YWCA Tribute to Women in Business Award, and the Knoxville Women's Center Courage Award; and

WHEREAS, she has been named the Public Relations Society of America Executive of the Year, as well as the Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame Administrator of the Year; in 2004, the magazine *Business Tennessee* placed her on its "Power 100" list, as one of the hundred most powerful people in the State; and

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee Lady Vol Leadership Award is named in her honor, and in 2007 Ms. Ray, a Kappa Delta Sorority alumna, was named to the sorority's "50 Over 50" list, which recognizes especially "accomplished, wise, and empowered" alumnae; and

WHEREAS, given the list of her achievements and accolades, it is little wonder that Gloria Ray's name will be placed on the Fulton High School Wall of Fame; she is a testament to the potential that Tennessee's high school students can realize if their ambition and talent are complemented by a rigorous education; and

WHEREAS, the success of this State, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as Gloria Ray who use their considerable talents and resources to serve their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Gloria Ray has demonstrated a wholehearted commitment to the noble precepts that have earned Tennessee that proud moniker, the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Gloria Ray on being one of the first five alumni to receive recognition on the Fulton High School Wall of Fame, commend her for the service she has rendered to the people of her community and this State, and wish her all the very best in 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.