

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 99

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Condredge Holloway of the University of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to specially recognize those extraordinary athletes and individuals who, through their magnificent exploits, have brought honor and distinction to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Condredge Holloway of the University of Tennessee, who is one of the most celebrated players in Tennessee Volunteers football history, having enjoyed a spectacular career on the gridiron and broken the racial barrier in the Southeastern Conference as the first African-American quarterback; and

WHEREAS, born January 24, 1954, in Huntsville, Alabama, Condredge Holloway was a stellar athlete at Lee High School where he drew the attention of both major college football programs and major league baseball scouts; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Mr. Holloway was selected as the fourth overall pick in the first round of the major league baseball draft by the Montreal Expos, who hoped to sign the seventeen-year-old shortstop to a baseball contract; and

WHEREAS, wanting her son to attend college, Mrs. Holloway refused to sign the contract and young Condredge would soon enroll at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville to play football and baseball for the Volunteers; and

WHEREAS, a three-year starter at quarterback for the Big Orange, Condredge Holloway broke the color barrier in the Southeastern Conference as the first African American starting quarterback in the league while directing the Volunteers to a 25-9-2 record during his career; and

WHEREAS, quarterbacking a razzle-dazzle offense, Condredge Holloway rightfully earned the nickname "The Artful Dodger" as he became a master at packing excitement into every play, whether it developed into a pass or a ground gaining scramble; and

WHEREAS, a truly gifted quarterback, he led the Volunteers to the 1972 Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl, the 1973 Gator Bowl, and the 1974 Liberty Bowl while setting the best interception-to-attempt ratio in Tennessee history, throwing just twelve interceptions in 407 collegiate passing attempts; and

WHEREAS, a shining star on the baseball diamond, Condredge Holloway played shortstop for the Vols, receiving All-SEC and All-American honors in 1975 as he posted a .353 career batting average that still ranks him ninth overall on the University of Tennessee's all-time hitting list; and

WHEREAS, drafted in the late rounds by the New England Patriots of the National Football League, Condredge Holloway signed to play in the Canadian Football League (CFL) with the Ottawa Rough Riders in 1975 and would go on to play thirteen seasons in the CFL; and

WHEREAS, a three-time CFL All-Star and winner of the Jeff Russel Memorial Trophy in 1982, Condredge Holloway enjoyed a tremendous career in Canada as he led the Toronto Argonauts to the Grey Cup Championship in 1982 and captured the CFL's Most Outstanding Player award; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame, Mr. Holloway threw for more than 25,000 yards and rushed for another 3,167 while scoring 155 touchdowns during his career that included seasons with the Ottawa Rough Riders, Toronto Argonauts, and the British Columbia Lions; and

WHEREAS, after his professional playing days ended, Condredge Holloway returned to the University of Tennessee and completed his college degree before later joining the UT Athletics Department where he currently serves as the Assistant Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Relations & Lettermen; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Condredge Holloway has been recognized for his athletic brilliance at every level and is a member of the Alabama Sports Hall

of Fame, the UT Baseball Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, the Knoxville Hall of Fame, the Toronto Hall of Fame, the Ottawa Hall of Fame, the Huntsville Hall of Fame and the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in addition to UT's African-American Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, a true legend to legions of Tennessee Volunteer football fans, Condredge Holloway was most recently honored as the subject of a wonderful documentary by ESPN, produced and narrated by country music star and lifelong UT fan, Kenny Chesney; and

WHEREAS, after seeing Mr. Holloway's appearance in Mr. Chesney's recent documentary "The Boys of Fall", ESPN approached Chesney to produce another documentary on Condredge Holloway who quickly agreed to work with Chesney again; "The Color Orange: The Condredge Holloway Story" chronicle's his story and his life as a Tennessee Volunteer in the early 1970s; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Condredge Holloway is most appreciative of the love and support of his wife, Courtney Haralson, and his two children, Jasmine and Condredge III; and

WHEREAS, Condredge Holloway serves as an example of vitality and dedication to the people of Tennessee, and he should be duly recognized for the boundless energy and remarkable talent he brings to all his chosen endeavors, athletic and otherwise; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and specially recognize Mr. Condredge Holloway of the University of Tennessee, commend him for his courageous and substantial legacy as an athlete, businessman and college administrator, and offer our deep appreciation for the dedication that he has shown our State.