

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 452

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION congratulating the Union University men's golf team upon its capture of the TranSouth Athletic Conference championship.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable sports team is the Union University men's golf team, which achieved an extraordinary level of success in the 2011 season by capturing the school's fourth TranSouth Athletic Conference (TSAC) championship in the past six years; and

WHEREAS, golf is one of the most demanding sports, requiring endless practice, constant focus, and unwavering commitment - characteristics displayed by each of the Bulldog golfers throughout their spectacular season; and

WHEREAS, the Union University golfers bested their rivals from Trevecca Nazarene University and Cumberland University over the course of the three-round tournament held at the Blytheville Country Club in Blytheville, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, ably led by coach Andy Rushing, the golfers compiled an aggregate score of 863 during the tournament, winning by two strokes over Cumberland and five over Trevecca. This achievement is particularly impressive as the Union players came from eleven strokes behind following the first round to capture the victory; and

WHEREAS, for Coach Rushing, in his fifth season as Union University's head coach, this championship marks the third such TSAC championship his Bulldogs have captured in the past four seasons and, in fitting recognition of his dedication, acumen, and abilities, Coach Rushing was chosen as the TranSouth Men's Golf Coach of the Year for the third time in his career; and

WHEREAS, the Bulldog team was led by the play of Brett Barry, who shot a three-round score of 209 and finished second overall, Micah Gentle, who shot a 217 to finish in fifth place, Ryan Chandler, who garnered a seventh-place finish with a 217, Steven Coffelt, whose 220 earned eleventh place overall, and Matt Kelley, who finished in twenty-second place with a 231; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barry, who medaled in three tournaments and placed in the top five in six others throughout the season, was appropriately chosen as the 2011 TranSouth Men's Golfer of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the championship win has earned the Union University team the chance to represent the TSAC at the 60th Annual NAIA Men's Golf National Championships, which will be held May 24-27, 2011, at the TPC Deere Run course in Silvis, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the golfers of Union University epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the golf course; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a championship season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Union University men's golf team for winning the 2011 TSAC championship and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of Tennessee's golfers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate coach Andy Rushing and members of the Union University men's golf team upon their capture of the 2011 TranSouth Athletic Conference championship, applaud their prowess in a difficult sport, and extend our best wishes for their continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.