

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 599

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Joan Cronan on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Joan Cronan is one such estimable person who, after serving with distinction for almost three decades as the Women's Athletic Director at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (UTK), will soon take a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Louisiana State University (LSU), Mrs. Cronan earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education and was later inducted into LSU's Alumni Hall of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, Joan Cronan established a reputation for excellence during her two-year coaching stint at Tennessee, leading the women's basketball team to an alternate berth in the first-ever National Invitational Collegiate Basketball Tournament; and

WHEREAS, before taking the helm at UTK's Women's Athletic Department, Mrs. Cronan served with acumen and alacrity for ten years as the Athletics Director at the College of Charleston, and under her astute leadership, the school was selected the number one women's athletics program in the country by the American Women's Sports Foundation; and

WHEREAS, for the past twenty-eight years, Mrs. Joan Cronan has masterfully overseen all aspect of UTK's Women's Athletic Department and brilliantly facilitated the operation of a first-class program; and

WHEREAS, because of her integrity and proactive guidance, the Lady Vols program has captured the Southeastern Conference's Women's All-Sport Award from the *New York Times*

for three consecutive years and garnered a reputation as one of the most visible and respected programs throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, in three of the past six years, all eleven Lady Vol teams have participated in postseason play, and the UTK Women's Athletics Department achieved a seventh-place finish in the 2007 Director's Cup, Tennessee's highest finish ever; and

WHEREAS, throughout her illustrious tenure, Joan Cronan strived to not only keep UTK as one of the premier women's athletics departments in the nation, but also to improve women's athletics on a local, regional, and national level; and

WHEREAS, a preeminent figure in the world of sports, Mrs. Joan Cronan has rendered sterling service as the President of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, President of the National Association of Collegiate Women's Athletics Administrators, and President of National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and as a member of the NCAA's Executive Committee, Management Council, NCAA's Council, NCAA Championship Cabinet, NCAA Leadership Committee, and Southeastern Conference Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Joan Cronan was inducted into the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Hall of Champions; was named the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators' Athletic Director of the Year, NACDA's Southeastern Region Athletic Director of the Year, and Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame's Administrator of the Year; and has received the Women of Achievement Award from the International Women's Forum, the Toastmaster's International Communication and Leadership Award, the AOPI Citizen of the Year Award, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Leadership Award, and the National Association of Collegiate Women's Athletic Administrators' Regional Award; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cronan is also a dedicated civic leader who has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order through her work with numerous organizations, including serving as Chairman of the Knoxville Area United Way Fund Drive, President of the Executive Women's Association, Vice-Chairman of the Leadership Knoxville Board, National Trustee of the FCA, and board member of the First Tennessee Bank, Baptist Hospital, YMCA, and her local FCA Chapter; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cronan faithfully serves as a deacon at Central Baptist Church at Bearden, where is known for her solid Christian belief, her service and love, and her role as a reservoir of faith and outreach to the people of her community; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to her family, Joan Cronan treasured many years of marital bliss with her husband, Tom, before his passing in 2006; and

WHEREAS, her many professional accomplishments aside, Mrs. Cronan is most grateful for the love and support she shares with her two daughters, Kristi Benner and Stacey Bristow; three grandsons, Chase Thomas Bristow, Reed Kent Bristow, and Quinn Leighton Benner; and two granddaughters, Reese Lauren Benner and Larkin Ann Bristow; and

WHEREAS, Joan Cronan exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout Mrs. Cronan's estimable career, she has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her students, her players, and her colleagues; 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 extend to Joan Cronan our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success 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.