

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 878

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Pat Head Summitt for her excellence and accomplishments as a player, the coach of the University of Tennessee's Lady Vols basketball team, and an American leader.

WHEREAS, the citizens of this great State and their elected representatives are honored to recognize outstanding Tennesseans who attain extraordinary heights of accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, glad are the people of this great State that the blood of the University of Tennessee's iconic coach of the Lady Vols basketball team, Pat Head Summitt, runs orange; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans and like-minded people across this nation and around the world revere Coach Pat Summitt as the greatest athletic coach of all-time; and

WHEREAS, now, Pat Head Summitt steps into a new role as Head Coach Emeritus of the Lady Vols; and

WHEREAS, during childhood days in the community of Henrietta nestled in the rolling hills of Montgomery County, Pat Head exhibited physical prowess as she worked the family farm along side her sister and three brothers, constantly honing her competitive edge as she vied with her siblings who themselves became sports powerhouses; and

WHEREAS, even after Pat Head battled each sibling and each competitor she encountered on the high school courts, women's sports lacked gender equity when she arrived on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall of 1970; and

WHEREAS, while her brother received an athletic scholarship to attend college, no scholarships were available even for an outstanding woman athlete like Pat Head in those years; and

WHEREAS, Pat Head still played basketball and earned her Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Tennessee at Martin; and

WHEREAS, with the passage of the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act, otherwise known as Title IX, enacted in 1972 and the full import of it in women's athletics some years from full actualization, gender discrimination in federally funded education institutions was real in Coach Summitt's collegiate world of the 1970s, yet, scarce could anyone have imagined that over the next four decades she would become the greatest catalyst for its implementation and would spend her career investing in the positive impact on young women's lives that this federal legislation brought about; and

WHEREAS, she symbolized the prototype player of the decades to come as a strong player that had great instincts and was awesome on defense, denying the ball all over the court, rebounding, with authority, taking the ball to the hoop and shooting the lights out over a zone defense; and

WHEREAS, in her career as a Lady Pacer, Pat Head helped the University of Tennessee at Martin to a record of 62-15, including two Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) District Tournament Championships, one AIAW Tennessee State Tournament Title, one AIAW Regional Championship, and an appearance in the 1972 AIAW National Tournament; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Pat Head left the University of Tennessee at Martin and started at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville as a graduate student, immediately becoming the head coach for the Lady Vols at only twenty-two years of age; and

WHEREAS, no glitz or glamour was to be found in Coach Summitt's early years at the Lady Vols' helm, but instead she was paid a meager two hundred-fifty dollars per month, drove the team van on road trips, and helped sell doughnuts to purchase team uniforms, which she also had to wash; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt also played for the United States in the 1975 Pan American Games in Mexico, bringing home the gold medal, and in 1976 in Montreal, she became a silver medalist on the United States Olympic Women's Basketball Team; and

WHEREAS, even as she excelled as a player and began her life's work as a coach, Coach Summitt continued her studies and in 1975 earned her Master of Science degree from that hallowed institution while beginning her unparalleled career; and

WHEREAS, in 1984 in Los Angeles, Summitt returned to the Olympic venue and coached the United States women's basketball team to the gold medal, additionally distinguishing herself as the first United States Olympian to both win a basketball medal and coach a medal-winning team; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt has been a game-changer and recorder-setter and has repeatedly made history by achieving feats of cosmic proportion both during regular season play and in tournament action, both at the conference and national levels; and

WHEREAS, under Coach Summitt's leadership, the Lady Vols have won sixteen Southeastern Conference Tournament Championships (1980, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012), and sixteen regular season Southeastern Conference Championships (1980, 1985, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2011); and

WHEREAS, Summitt's Lady Vols have an astral record of NCAA tournament play, having made eighteen Final Four appearances, a record among all men's and women's coaches and bests the legendary John Wooden by six appearances; and

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee is the only basketball program to be invited to every NCAA post-season women's tournament since its inception 1982, and in twenty of the twenty-nine tournament events, the Lady Vols have received a Number 1 seed; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt has led the Lady Vols to eight NCAA Women's Basketball Championships (1987, 1989, 1991, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2007, 2008), the most national championships won by any team or coach in NCAA women's basketball history; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the championship performances of her teams, Coach Summitt is the winningest college coach in men's or women's basketball, as she has claimed victory in 1,098 games she has coached; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt eight times has been selected as Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year (1993, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2011) and seven times has been selected NCAA Coach of the Year (1983, 1987, 1989, 1994, 1995, 1998, 2004); and

WHEREAS, the recipient of countless honors and accolades, Coach Summitt is a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame and of the inaugural class of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, was named the Naismith Basketball Coach of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, has won the prestigious Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly Award as best Coach/Manager in all sports, college and professional, and won the coveted John R. Wooden Legends of Coaching lifetime achievement award, of which she is the only female recipient; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Coach Summitt was named the only woman on the Sporting News' list of the fifty greatest coaches of all time in all of college basketball and football and in professional baseball, basketball, football, and hockey, received an honorary doctorate from the United States Sports Academy, and was presented the Women's National Basketball Association's Inspiring Coach Award; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 alone, Summitt was selected Sports Illustrated's Sportswoman of the Year, was again recognized by the United States Sports Academy with the Mildred "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias Courage Award, and received the prestigious Communicator of the Year award from the Tennessee Communication Association; and

WHEREAS, shining brilliantly as she has traversed the journey of her sports career, Pat Summitt has soared among and beyond the stars of the brightest, most talented, and most passionate sports men and women of the last and present centuries; and

WHEREAS, astonishingly, Coach Summitt is the only coach in all NCAA sports to reach and surpass 1,000 wins, and she has never experienced a losing season; and

WHEREAS, this spring, Coach Summitt will be honored as the recipient of the Tennessean of the Year Award by the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, and this will mark the second time that Summitt, a 2003 Inductee, has received this award and the first time ever it has been awarded to the same person twice; and

WHEREAS, her athletic prowess notwithstanding, Coach Summitt is an equally ardent academician and every Lady Vols basketball player who has completed her eligibility at the

University of Tennessee has received a college degree or is in the process of completing degree requirements; and

WHEREAS, imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, an amazing forty-six of her family of basketball players have become coaches themselves; and

WHEREAS, later this year, President Obama will bestow upon Coach Summitt the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest ranking civilian award in our nation; and

WHEREAS, for all the greatness she has shared with the many she has taught and shepherded through their collegiate athletic careers and the thousands more she has touched yet never met, Coach Summitt's greatest accomplishment is in the nurturing of the person that calls her "Mom", her outstanding son Tyler, who loves and adores her and has himself matured into a fine athlete and a potential coaching prodigy; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt has been blessed by her late father, Richard, who set high expectations and instilled unwavering confidence in her that she could and would succeed, and her beloved mother "Miss Hazel", who has always been so supportive of her daughter's endeavors and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, with the sibling rivalry of childhood long since past, four of Coach Summitt's most ardent fans are her sister, Linda, and brothers, Charles, Kenneth, and Tommy; and

WHEREAS, it is for Tommy, this body holds a special fondness, inasmuch as he served in the House of Representatives during the 95<sup>th</sup> through the 103<sup>rd</sup> General Assemblies, and he gave exceptional service to the State in that capacity; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting, proper, and, indeed, incumbent upon this General Assembly to laud the plethora of accomplishments of Coach Pat Summitt, and emblazon the truth of her magnificent career and her personal greatness across the annals of history of this great State; 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 hereby honor and gratefully commend Pat Head Summitt for her lifetime of outstanding accomplishments and extend to her our prayerful best wishes for even more future successes and accomplishments.

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