

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 585

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Coach Marshall H. Patterson of Clarksville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Coach Marshall H. Patterson; and

WHEREAS, Coach Patterson was an exemplary public servant and consummate educator who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute with a Bachelor of Science in 1957, and attained a Master's in Education from George Peabody College for Teachers in 1959; and

WHEREAS, Coach Marshall H. Patterson served in the U.S. Army at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia from 1957-1959, was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, achieved the rank of First Lieutenant, and after leaving active duty, obtained the rank of Captain in the Army Reserve; and

WHEREAS, Coach Patterson began his coaching career in the Fort Campbell School System in 1961 and shepherded the football program at Fort Campbell High School from its infancy when he started the program in 1962, established the high school as a football power, and created a legion of admirers through thirty-two years of coaching football and wrestling, teaching, and serving as the athletic director at Fort Campbell High School; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as head football coach at Fort Campbell High School, he put the Falcons football program on the map with three state titles in 1976, 1978, and 1979; and

WHEREAS, he also secured a state title in wrestling in 1971; and

WHEREAS, Coach Patterson led the Falcons to 227 wins in football in his thirty-two years as head coach before he retired in 1993; and

WHEREAS, because of these successes, Coach Marshall H. Patterson was ranked in the State's top ten in coaching wins at the time of his first retirement; and

WHEREAS, Coach Patterson possessed a passion for the game and devotion to the youth of his community; he returned three years after his first retirement to serve as head football coach at Northwest High School, where he guided the Vikings to the playoffs twice before he retired once more in 2001; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and devout member of the New Providence United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Coach Marshall H. Patterson enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of 56 years, Rebecca Roach Patterson, and was the proud father of Stephen Patterson and his wife Sheila, Jeanann Pardue and her husband Randy, and Marsha Anderson and her husband John, proud grandfather of Taylor Patterson, Benjamin Pardue, Philip Pardue, Tessa Patterson, Mary Marshall Anderson, Stephen Pardue and Jack Anderson, loving brother of Aldene Williams, and dedicated uncle of many nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Marshall Gray Patterson and Grace Holman Patterson Liggett, and his grandson, Christopher Patterson; and

WHEREAS, Coach Patterson was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order and enjoyed the time he spent with them, including fishing with his son and antiquing with his wife; and

WHEREAS, Coach Marshall H. Patterson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional educator and human being; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Coach Marshall H. Patterson, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Coach Marshall H. Patterson.

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