

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 728

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend women's basketball coach Rick Insell on the occasion of his 1,000th career victory.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts in athletics as coaches, have distinguished themselves as legends in the annals of high school and collegiate sports in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Rick Insell, the head coach of the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) women's basketball team, is an absolute legend of the hardwood court at his alma mater, where he professes to be living his dream of leading the Blue Raiders; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2014, Coach Insell's MTSU Blue Raiders met and bested Tulane in New Orleans by a score of 64-52, and with this victory, he captured his 1,000th coaching career victory; and

WHEREAS, this magnificent accomplishment notwithstanding, Coach Rick Insell's legendary career is spectacular. On January 5, 2013, he became MTSU's winningest coach of all time when his team trounced South Alabama 60-39, and his winning percentage of .762 ranks eighth among active NCAA Division I coaches; and

WHEREAS, Coach Insell has led the Blue Raiders since May of 2005, and his tenure at MTSU is replete with accomplishments, including tournament appearances, five All-Americans, and three WNBA picks in his first eight seasons; and

WHEREAS, he was no stranger to history-making on the hardwood when he arrived at MTSU. He hails from nearby Woodbury in Cannon County, is a 1977 MTSU graduate, and, through the decades of the 1980s and 1990s, he built and directed a high school girls basketball dynasty at nearby Shelbyville Central High School, one which is unsurpassed to this day; and

WHEREAS, he guided the Golden Eaglettes to a record ten Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association (TSSAA) Class 3A state championships and two USA Today national championships in 1989 and 1991. Coach Insell also compiled a sparkling 775-148 win-loss record during his twenty-eight-year high school tenure, was named the USA Today National High School Coach of the Year following both national titles, and was also tabbed the Converse National High School Coach of the Year in 1990 and 1992; and

WHEREAS, the five hall of fame inductions with which he has been honored give the best reflective glimpse of his phenomenal career: first, in 2003, TSSAA Hall of Fame, memorializing his 775 victories at Shelbyville Central; second, in 2007, National High School Hall of Fame; third, in 2010, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame's Morgan Wootten Award for Lifetime Achievement for High School Girls Basketball; fourth, in 2012, Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame; and fifth, in 2013, Cannon Courier Hall of Fame, memorializing his contributions as a native Cannon Countian; and

WHEREAS, Coach Insell's talents come to life on the court in the extraordinary offensive and defensive play of his players, and he is also an author, having paired with former high school coach Micheal Burt to write *The Anatomy of Winning – How to REWIRE People to Win*, which was published in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Rick Insell is married to the former Deborah Spry of Woodbury, and they have three sons, Tom, Kyle, and Matt, who has followed his father's footsteps and is currently the women's basketball coach at the University of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Rick Insell is an extraordinary Tennessean and a coaching genius who has earned the unbridled respect of players, fans, and opponents alike, and it is fitting and appropriate that this legislative body should pause to recognize him; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize Rick Insell on his stellar career coaching women's basketball in Tennessee, commend his accomplishment of 1,000 career victories, and extend to

him our very best wishes for continued and even greater successes in all of his 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.