

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 557

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to honor the 1966 Pearl High School varsity basketball team on the fiftieth anniversary of its historic state championship.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially honor and commend those legendary, successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, brought honor to themselves, their schools, and the citizens of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such historic team was the 1966 varsity basketball team of Pearl High School in Nashville, who fifty years ago became the first African-American team to play in and win the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) state championship; and

WHEREAS, the 1966 Pearl High School varsity basketball team inspired all who were witness to their achievements as they completed their season not only with a historic state championship, but also with an unblemished record of 31-0; and

WHEREAS, gracing the hardwood court with a display of unyielding determination, the 1966 Pearl High School varsity basketball team overcame what were believed to be unbeatable odds to pave the way for present-day athletes and those yet to come; and

WHEREAS, the 1966 team roster included players Walter H. Fisher, Sr., Ted McClain, Perry Wallace, Tyrone Fizer, Irvin Williams, Melvin Smith, James Douglas, Charles Moorman, Joe Herbert, Willie Fisher (deceased), and team manager James Avery; and

WHEREAS, the pride and perseverance that legendary coaches Cornelius Ridley (deceased), John Tisdale (deceased), James Armstrong (deceased), and Melvin Black instilled in the team, along with their natural talents and abilities and their unwavering approach to team play, drove them to great success and to the championship game; and

WHEREAS, unstoppable in their pursuit of victory, the members of the 1966 Pearl High School varsity basketball team handily proved they were indeed championship material for the ages, and it is wholly fitting that they be recognized for their tremendous accomplishment on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the coaches and players of the 1966 Pearl High School varsity basketball team on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of their groundbreaking championship season, commending their astounding determination to find victory in the face of adversity, both on the basketball court and in life, and saluting their indelible legacy in the annals of Tennessee high school sports history.

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