

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 742

By Terry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Coach Rick Insell and the members of the Middle Tennessee State University Lady Blue Raiders women's basketball team upon winning the Conference USA Tournament.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly salute those collegiate athletes who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as true champions of whom we all can be proud; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Lady Blue Raiders basketball team and Head Coach Rick Insell have proven themselves to be the fiercest of competitors and, as such, deserving of the highest regard, as they recently won the 2016 Conference USA (C-USA) Basketball Tournament and earned a bid to the Big Dance, the NCAA Women's Tournament, which will crown the national champion; and

WHEREAS, during the early season, the Lady Raiders racked up big wins against Ole Miss, Nevada, and Xavier before settling down to conference play; and

WHEREAS, in Conference USA competition, MTSU finished 15-3 and tied for second place, with an overall record of 21-8; and

WHEREAS, in the Conference USA Tournament in Birmingham, the Lady Raiders dominated Rice 74-54 and Marshall 69-41 to advance to the championship game; and

WHEREAS, in the title game, MTSU torched Old Dominion 70-54 behind the great shooting of Tournament MVP and point guard Ty Petty, who scored 19 points and set the MTSU single season record for assists (186) in the third quarter, and Brea Edwards, who scored 16 points; and

WHEREAS, Conference USA Freshman of the Year Alex Johnson, a back-to-back state champion at Blackman High School, was named to the All-Tournament team; and

WHEREAS, both Ty Petty and Alex Johnson are natives of Murfreesboro, which Coach Rick Insell has dubbed “the basketball capital of Tennessee”; and

WHEREAS, this C-USA title is the second for Coach Insell and the Lady Raiders as they previously won the conference title in 2014; and

WHEREAS, facing off against Florida State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament in College Station, Texas, the Lady Raiders put out a valiant effort and trailed by only three points at the half, but they did not ultimately emerge victorious and finished the season at 24-9; and

WHEREAS, the members of the MTSU Lady Blue Raiders epitomize all that is good in today’s student athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while exhibiting the highest degree of character in all aspects of life; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible a championship season, but also surely bode well for their future success; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the members of the MTSU Lady Blue Raiders basketball team for their outstanding performance and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of Tennessee; 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 and commend Coach Rick Insell and the members of the Middle Tennessee State University Lady Blue Raiders basketball team upon winning the Conference USA Tournament, congratulate the team upon an excellent season that included an NCAA Tournament bid, and extend to them our best wishes for continued success both on and off the court.

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