

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 858

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor Principal Mel Brown of Mt. Juliet High School on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those outstanding educators who devoted their careers to shaping the youth of today into the leaders of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, Mel Brown, principal of Mt. Juliet High School, is taking a much-deserved retirement after a forty-five-year career in education that stands unsurpassed in accomplishment and influence; and

WHEREAS, regarded as one of the State's best high school principals, Mr. Brown has been honored as Principal of the Year by the Tennessee Association of Secondary School Principals; during his illustrious tenure at Mt. Juliet, the school and its students have excelled in diverse ways, receiving State recognition in the arts and winning championships in athletics; and

WHEREAS, the State Collaborative on Reforming Education named Mt. Juliet the No. 1 academic school in the State, and the school has also received several Reward School recognitions from the Tennessee Department of Education under Mr. Brown's leadership; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown has adroitly utilized the skills he perfected as an athlete and coach to build effective teams and good relationships as a principal and inspire his students to become leaders in their communities; and

WHEREAS, he served as assistant principal at Hillsboro High School from 1992-1996 and Lebanon High School during the 2003-2004 school year before assuming his current duties; and

WHEREAS, Principal Brown began his education career at Two Rivers High School before transferring to McGavock High School, where he served as assistant football coach and head baseball coach; and

WHEREAS, Mel Brown compiled an excellent résumé as head baseball coach at McGavock, amassing 582 wins, three TSSAA State Championships, three TSSAA State runner-up finishes, and seven "Coach of the Year" honors and averaging 29 wins per season; his legacy is so pervasive that McGavock's baseball field is named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, among the 136 McGavock baseball players who benefited from Coach Brown's tutelage for four years, 135 received college scholarships, an amazing statistic that reveals his greatness as a leader and motivator; and

WHEREAS, he was inducted into the TSSAA Hall of Fame in 1999 and is also a member of the Clay County High School, Lipscomb University, and Tennessee Baseball halls of fame; and

WHEREAS, an alumnus of Lipscomb University, Mr. Brown attended college on a baseball scholarship; he also holds a master's degree from Middle Tennessee State University and an educational specialist degree from Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, he is proud to hail from a family of educators; his father, Carmon Brown, was principal of Celina High School when Mel Brown was a student there; Carmon Brown later became the director of schools, and after his untimely passing, his wife, Frankie, served the remainder of his term of office as one of the first female directors of schools in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one of Mr. Brown's great-uncles served as a director of schools, and his brother is a retired director of schools; his children and grandchildren have also focused on careers in education; and

WHEREAS, during the golden years of his retirement, Mel Brown plans to "get to his back porch" and spend more time with his wife and biggest supporter, Carroll, and their children, grandchildren, and soon-to-arrive great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, for forty-five years, Mel Brown has been wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Principal Mel Brown on his exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best in his upcoming retirement.

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