

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 454

By Weaver

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Pat Emerick Lancaster Landreth upon her induction into the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we salute those citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as exemplary athletes of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Pat Emerick Lancaster Landreth, who will be inducted into the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame on August 30, 2019, in a special ceremony to be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Brisbane, California; and

WHEREAS, the winner of the 1949 Ladies World Boxing Association Championship, Pat Landreth is the second-oldest person to be inducted into the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, an Indiana native who grew up in South Bend, Pat Landreth began her boxing career at the age of seventeen, standing five foot four inches and weighing in at just 123 pounds; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Landreth worked at a bakery at night and trained during the day, running five miles a day, hitting a punching bag, jumping rope, and sparring in the ring with male sparring partners; and

WHEREAS, after losing her first bout in South Bend's Palais Royale Auditorium due to a combination of youth, nerves, and the jitters, she quickly rebounded and reeled off eighteen consecutive victories in fights that were usually held in her hometown, but she also boxed across Indiana and in Nebraska and Iowa; and

WHEREAS, in November 1949, she fought JoAnn Hagan (Verhaegen) for the Ladies World Boxing Association Championship in Council Bluffs, Iowa, before a crowd of 4,000,

winning the scheduled six-round match by TKO, as her opponent didn't answer the bell in the fourth round; and

WHEREAS, in winning the world championship contest, Ms. Landreth received a trophy and a boxing sweater from the Indiana Golden Gloves Boxing Association; and

WHEREAS, less than a year later, a horrendous automobile accident ended her boxing career as severe injuries caused her to spend nearly ten weeks in the hospital and ultimately undergo seven surgeries; she spent thirteen months learning how to walk again; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, Pat Landreth was joined in holy matrimony with Robert "Bob" Lancaster, and the couple eventually relocated to his home state of Tennessee, settling in Smith County to raise their children; after thirty-nine years of marriage, Mr. Lancaster passed away in 1994; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, she met Bill "Big D" Landreth, the longtime coach of the Smith County High School girls' basketball team, on a blind date; the couple eventually married and shared a life together until Mr. Landreth's passing on February 28, 2003; and

WHEREAS, a beloved family matriarch, Pat Landreth enjoys the love and support of her six sons, five daughters, four stepchildren, twenty-two grandchildren, and twenty-two great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Pat Landreth's dedication to excellence is characteristic of a true Tennessean, and we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud her distinguished accomplishments on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Pat Emerick Lancaster Landreth upon her induction into the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success and much happiness in her 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.