

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 803

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Ryan Tannehill on being named the NFL's Comeback Player of the Year and Most Improved Player of the Year.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize an outstanding quarterback and fierce competitor who seized a golden opportunity in mid-season to lead his team to the American Football Conference (AFC) Championship Game; and

WHEREAS, in his seventh National Football League (NFL) season and his first with Tennessee, Ryan Tannehill, quarterback from Big Spring, Texas, sprung a big surprise on the entire league and its fans by leading the Titans to a 9-4 record as a starter, including two playoff victories and a trip to the AFC Championship game; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his outstanding play and intrepid game management, Ryan Tannehill was selected to play in the Pro Bowl and honored by the Associated Press as Comeback Player of the Year, accolades all the more impressive considering he didn't start a game until Week 7; and

WHEREAS, he was also honored by the Professional Football Writers of America as the NFL's Comeback Player of the Year and Most Improved Player of the Year, thus becoming only the second player to receive both awards in the same season since 2003; and

WHEREAS, making his first start of 2019 against the Los Angeles Chargers, Ryan Tannehill had two touchdown passes in a Titans victory that marked the beginning of the redemption of their season; and

WHEREAS, in the win over the Kansas City Chiefs in Week 10, Ryan Tannehill threw two touchdown passes, the second one a twenty-three-yard toss that gave the Titans the lead with twenty-three seconds remaining; and

WHEREAS, with the Titans facing a favorable "win and in" playoff scenario in Week 17, Ryan Tannehill hurled two touchdown passes, and Tennessee easily handled the Houston Texans to punch the post-season ticket; and

WHEREAS, among his many impressive accomplishments during the regular season, Ryan Tannehill led the league with a 117.5 passer rating (best in franchise history and fourth-best in NFL history), completed 70.3 percent of his passes, and threw for 2,742 yards with twenty-two touchdown tosses; and

WHEREAS, he was named the AFC's Offensive Player of the Month for December after throwing twelve touchdown passes and posting a 124.6 passer rating in five games; and

WHEREAS, leading the underdog Titans against the six-time Super Bowl champion New England Patriots in the NFL playoffs, Ryan Tannehill threw a twelve-yard touchdown pass and completed a twenty-two-yard screen pass that set up a rushing touchdown from the one-yard line, and Tennessee emerged victorious; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee next faced the number-one-AFC-seed Baltimore Ravens as ten-point underdogs; Ryan Tannehill, in many ways the architect of the team's mid-season revival, threw two touchdown passes and rushed for another as the Titans trounced Baltimore; and

WHEREAS, with a trip to the Super Bowl on the line, Tennessee met the Kansas City Chiefs in the AFC Championship Game; despite a valiant effort by the Boys in Blue, including two touchdown passes by Ryan Tannehill, Kansas City prevailed, thus ending a highly successful, storybook season for both Ryan and the Titans; and

WHEREAS, Ryan Tannehill revitalized the Tennessee Titans during the final ten games of the NFL regular season and led his team to two postseason wins over the defending Super Bowl champions and the AFC's top seed, respectively, very nearly reaching the pinnacle of the football world; and

WHEREAS, having demonstrated the heart and soul of a perennial champion, the accuracy and achievements of an exemplary quarterback, and the resolve and perseverance of a true leader, Ryan Tannehill is worthy of awe and approbation; 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 honor and congratulate Ryan Tannehill on being named the NFL's Comeback Player of the Year by the Associated Press and the league's Comeback Player of the Year and Most Improved Player of the Year by the Professional Football Writers of America, pay tribute to his exemplary 2019 season and 2020 post-season performance, and extend to him our best wishes for even greater success next season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.