

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 923

By Moon

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Alcoa High School football team upon winning the 2019 TSSAA Division I, Class 3A State Championship.

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

WHEREAS, the members of the Alcoa High School football team have proven themselves to be the ablest of competitors and, as such, deserving of the highest regard; and

WHEREAS, a nationally recognized dynasty in high school football, the Alcoa Tornadoes have long dominated the high school football arena in Tennessee and have counted among their members some of the most talented young athletes to ever play on the gridiron; and

WHEREAS, on December 6, 2019, at Tucker Stadium on the campus of Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, the Alcoa Tornadoes claimed their fifth straight Class 3A state championship title as they defeated Pearl-Cohn High School from Nashville by a final score of 27-0; and

WHEREAS, in his thirty-eighth season and fourteenth as head coach at Alcoa, Hall of Fame Head Coach Gary Rankin and his exceptional staff shared their vast experience and knowledge with the Tornadoes, inspiring every player to give his best on the gridiron and in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, considered one of the greatest high school football coaches in the history of the game, Coach Rankin has guided the Tornadoes to eleven state championships in twelve state championship game appearances since his arrival in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the winningest high school football program in state history, Alcoa High School has a state-record eighteen overall high school football championships and completed the 2019 season with a record of fourteen wins against just one loss; their sole loss came against their longtime rival, Maryville High School, which plays in the larger Class 6A; and

WHEREAS, fearing no opponent, Alcoa tallied wins against two Class 6A teams during the 2019 season, Dobyns-Bennett High School and Blackman High School; in the latter game, Coach Rankin returned to Murfreesboro for the first time since 2005; and

WHEREAS, the pantheon of achievements by the Alcoa Tornadoes includes forty-one consecutive region wins, eleven Mr. Football winners, four retired jersey numbers, thirty-three all-time playoff appearances, and 439 coaching wins for Head Coach Gary Rankin, the most by any football coach in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Alcoa Tornadoes were led by fourteen seniors, twelve of whom played all four years, and faced seven teams that advanced to the second round of the playoffs, including three region champions; and

WHEREAS, since 2003, Alcoa has either won the state championship or ended their season with a loss to the eventual state champion. The Tornadoes are 18-2 all-time in championship game appearances and 20-4 in semi-final round appearances; and

WHEREAS, rising to the highest ranks of their sport, six former Alcoa Tornadoes have played in the National Football League, including David Davis, Albert Davis, Tim George, Shannon Mitchell, Billy Williams, and Randall Cobb; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the Alcoa High School Tornadoes football team, not only for the team's championship win but also for the players' superior sportsmanship and the joy they have brought to their fellow students and the people of Tennessee; 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 the coaches and members of the Alcoa High

School football team for their heralded victories and being crowned 2019 TSSAA Division I, Class 3A state champions and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

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.