

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1035

By Baum

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Steve Peterson.

WHEREAS, we were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of former MTSU baseball coach Steve Peterson; and

WHEREAS, a native of Huntsville, Alabama, Mr. Peterson was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Steve Peterson spent two years as a backup catcher at Columbia State Community College before becoming a stand-out catcher at Jacksonville State University under legendary coach Rudy Abbott; and

WHEREAS, known as "Mr. MTSU Baseball," Coach Peterson retired in 2012 after twenty-five years as head coach of Middle Tennessee State University, during which time he accrued a record of 791-637-3, making him the winningest Blue Raiders coach of all time; his illustrious career included sixteen seasons with thirty or more wins and four seasons with forty or more wins, including the 2009 season wherein his team amassed forty-four wins, setting a new record for the program; and

WHEREAS, under his guidance, the Blue Raiders baseball team claimed eleven conference regular-season championships, nine conference tournament titles, and nine NCAA Regional appearances; in addition to his outstanding tenure as head coach of the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders, Mr. Peterson coached for six seasons at Roane State Community College, amassing a 944-733-3 overall record across his estimable career; and

WHEREAS, his outstanding career earned him numerous accolades, including induction into the Rutherford County Old Timers Baseball Hall of Fame in 2003, the Tennessee Coaches

Association Hall of Fame in 2007, the Huntsville-Madison County Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009, the Blue Raider Hall of Fame in 2010, and the ABCA Hall of Fame in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peterson was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Rita; his daughters, Jill (Morgan) Wright and Jenny (Brock) East; his son, John (Myranda) Peterson; and a host of grandchildren, extended family, and close friends; and

WHEREAS, Steve Peterson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional coach, public servant, and human being; 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 the memory of Steve Peterson, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Coach Peterson.

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.