

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1200

By Johnson G

A RESOLUTION to honor the life and memory of Johnny Majors of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of former University of Tennessee head football coach Johnny Majors; and

WHEREAS, a legend in the annals of collegiate athletics in Tennessee, Johnny Majors was a consummate professional who distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community and this State; and

WHEREAS, the oldest of five sons, Johnny Majors was born on May 21, 1935, into a football-oriented family whose patriarch, Shirley Majors, coached football at Huntland High School from 1949 to 1957 and at the University of the South (Sewanee) from 1957 to 1977; and

WHEREAS, a Lynchburg native, Johnny Majors played for the Hornets at Huntland High School in Franklin County, where he scored an amazing 565 points during his high school career; and

WHEREAS, at the University of Tennessee, Johnny Majors was a standout halfback who finished his college career with 1,622 rushing yards and fifteen touchdowns on 387 attempts, while also completing 54.1 percent of his passes for 1,135 yards and eleven touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, he earned the All-Southeastern Conference (SEC) selection for tailback and the SEC Player of the Year in 1955 and 1956, as well as All-American and Back of the Year in 1956, and he finished second in the 1956 Heisman Trophy balloting; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, Johnny Majors began his coaching career as an assistant at the University of Tennessee, and he went on to serve as an assistant coach at Mississippi State University from 1960 to 1963 and at the University of Arkansas from 1964 to 1967; and

WHEREAS, Coach Majors made a name for himself as a coach who could take a struggling football program and transform it into a winning team; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Majors served as head football coach at Iowa State University from 1968 to 1972, the University of Pittsburgh from 1973 to 1976 and again from 1993 to 1996, and the University of Tennessee from 1977 to 1992; and

WHEREAS, Coach Majors led the Vols to twelve winning seasons during his sixteen-season tenure as head coach, winning SEC championships in 1985, 1989, and 1990, and posting a 7-4 record in eleven bowl games; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his storied football career, Coach Majors won countless awards and accolades for his talents as a leader both on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, during his twenty-nine-year coaching career, Coach Majors posted an overall record of 185-137-10; he was named Coach of the Year by United Press International and the Associated Press in 1971, and earned Coach of the Year honors from the Football Writers Association and the Walter Camp Foundation in 1973 and the American Football Coaches Association in 1976; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his outstanding talents as a football player, Johnny Majors was named to the Quarter-Century All-SEC team (1950-1974) at running back, and was inducted into the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame in 1987 with 185 wins as a head coach; in 2012, the University of Tennessee retired his number "45" college jersey; and

WHEREAS, having led sixteen teams to bowl games, with an overall bowl record of 9-7, Coach Majors was inducted into the Sun Bowl Hall of Fame in 2000 and the Peach Bowl Hall of Fame in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Majors 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 the members of this General Assembly should remember the extraordinary life of one of the true legends of Tennessee football; 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 Johnny Majors, 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 Majors.

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.