

HOUSE RESOLUTION 85

By Terry

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Richard Morgan Fliehr, better known as "Ric Flair," for his significant forty-year career in professional wrestling and sports entertainment.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that the members of this legislative body recognize those citizens who, through a lifetime of dedication, have become household names and earned international esteem in their fields, especially when the lives of millions are uplifted in the process; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Memphis native Richard Morgan Fliehr, better known by his internationally recognizable wrestling alias "Ric Flair," who has enjoyed a forty-year career in professional wrestling, during which time he has become a distinguished wrestling icon; and

WHEREAS, known also by the moniker "Nature Boy," Mr. Flair has wrestled in many organizations, including the World Wrestling Federation (WWF), World Championship Wrestling (WCW), and World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE); and

WHEREAS, Ric Flair, the "stylin', profilin', limousine-riding, jet-flying, kiss-stealing, wheelin' and dealin' son of a gun," made his WWE debut by winning the 1992 Royal Rumble and subsequently claiming the WWE championship; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Flair has been officially recognized by *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Impact Wrestling (formerly TNA), and the WWE as having held sixteen World Heavyweight Championships; these titles include seven National Wrestling Alliance Championships, seven WCW Championships, and two WWF Championships and are the most ever held by anyone in professional wrestling; and

WHEREAS, these titles do not include his unofficial record, which counts those years during which records of such matters were poorly kept; his unofficial World Heavyweight title count is twenty-one; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many wins, Ric Flair is the only person in the history of his profession to be inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame while being an active wrestler; he is also the only person to be inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame twice; and

WHEREAS, on October 4, 1975, Ric Flair suffered injuries from a horrific plane crash and was told that he would never wrestle again; however, through grit and determination, he recovered and continued his long, enriching, and prosperous career in sports entertainment; and

WHEREAS, after his recovery, Mr. Flair amassed several impressive victories in the ring; in 1992, he defeated Terry Funk at Clash of Champions in their iconic "I Quit" match, and in 1989, he set the bar for wrestling perfection by defeating Ricky Steamboat at Wrestle War; and

WHEREAS, his four-decade career took him from his home of Memphis to destinations around the world, including Tokyo, Japan; all the while, he entertained and uplifted millions of wrestling fans; and

WHEREAS, he has proven, time and again throughout his illustrious career, that "to be the man, you have to beat the man" and that "diamonds are forever, and so is Ric Flair"; and

WHEREAS, WOOOOOO!; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and congratulate Richard Morgan Fliehr, "Ric Flair," on his long and decorated career in professional wrestling and sports entertainment and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.