

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 78

By Roberts

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Caleb Plant on winning the Super Middleweight World Championship.

WHEREAS, this legislative body takes great pleasure in paying tribute to a Tennessee native who has overcome many obstacles and personal tragedy to win a world championship in professional boxing; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2019, during the main event of the Premier Boxing Champions card in Los Angeles, California, Ashland City's own Caleb "Sweethands" Plant dethroned Jose Uzcategui to claim the International Boxing Federation (IBF) Super Middleweight World Championship; and

WHEREAS, Caleb Plant scored two solid knockdowns of his opponent to win a clear unanimous decision and claim the world title in the 168-pound classification; and

WHEREAS, in winning the IBF Super Middleweight World Championship, Caleb Plant not only fulfilled a lifelong dream but also paid homage to the memory of his baby daughter Alia, who died two years ago from a rare medical condition at the age of nineteen months; and

WHEREAS, a gifted and diligent fighter in the squared circle since the age of twelve, Caleb Plant has a perfect 18-0 overall record with ten knockouts and an incredibly bright future as a professional boxer; and

WHEREAS, in his amateur career, Caleb Plant won the 2011 Golden Gloves in the light heavyweight division and was an alternate to represent his country at the 2012 Summer Olympics; and

WHEREAS, Caleb Plant is a native of Cheatham County who grew up on Bearwallow Road in Ashland City and graduated from Sycamore High School; he is the first world champion in boxing history to hail from Ashland City and only the second from Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, at the age of nine, Caleb Plant was inspired by his father, a former kickboxer, to take up the sport; he excelled at kickboxing, winning nine national and five world championships, but most importantly, he found a positive outlet for his youthful energy; and

WHEREAS, in all his endeavors, Caleb Plant has been strongly supported by his family: father, Richie; mother, Beth; and sisters, Hannah and Madeline; and

WHEREAS, throughout our State's history, Tennesseans have always fought the good fight, a legacy that lives on today via Caleb "Sweethands" Plant, a true champion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate native Tennessean Caleb Plant on winning the IBF Super Middleweight World Championship and wish him all the best in his future endeavors, both in and out of the ring.

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