

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 112

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James "Jim" Weldon Morgan of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of James "Jim" Weldon Morgan, an outstanding educator and legendary wrestling coach at both the collegiate and high school levels; and

WHEREAS, a native of Chattanooga, Jim Morgan served the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) as a coach, professor, and athletic administrator during his storied career; and

WHEREAS, Coach Morgan earned iconic status as UTC's wrestling coach for sixteen years (1969-1984); he posted an overall record of 209-70-3 and a winning percentage of .746 to become the winningest coach in school history, transformed the Mocs' wrestling program into a championship contender, and deftly guided UTC in its transition to NCAA Division I competition; and

WHEREAS, Jim Morgan was named NCAA Division II National Coach of the Year in 1975, when he led UTC to a third-place finish at the NCAA Tournament; the Mocs were runners-up the following season and finished ninth in 1977, before elevating their level of competition to the Southern Conference and NCAA Division I; and

WHEREAS, he guided UTC to the Southern Conference Championship during the team's first six years of membership and won Coach of the Year honors in 1978, 1981, and 1983; and

WHEREAS, Coach Morgan's 1983 team finished 14th at the NCAA Championships, the highest finish for the UTC wrestling program in Division I competition, while two wrestlers earned All-American honors under his tutelage; and

WHEREAS, overall, Jim Morgan produced sixteen All-Americans and three NCAA champions during his illustrious tenure at UTC; and

WHEREAS, after completing his brilliant coaching career, he served as an assistant athletic director at UTC before taking over the Baylor School wrestling program in 1986; Coach Morgan once again distinguished himself by leading his teams to more than 500 victories, nine State traditional championships, six State duals championships, and sixty individual State championships during his twenty-five-year tenure there (1986-2010); and

WHEREAS, Jim Morgan's legendary status as a wrestling coach and mentor of young men has been acknowledged by his induction into the UTC Athletics Hall of Fame, Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame, Baylor School Sports Hall of Fame, and the inaugural class of the Tennessee Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, his many athletic accomplishments aside, Coach Morgan taught chemistry at Baylor School and was named 2002 ACS Chemistry Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of McCallie School, Jim Morgan earned both Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from the University of Chattanooga (UC); as an undergraduate at UC, he was a member of the wrestling team and won the Dayle May Award his senior year; and

WHEREAS, Coach Morgan always placed his family first, and he will be greatly missed by his son Christopher Morgan (Casey Campbell); daughter-in-law, Stephanie Morgan; grandsons, Stephen Morgan and Campbell Norton; brothers, Robin Morgan and Tyler Morgan; sister, Gil Morgan; nieces, Angela Morgan and Amy Ratledge; and nephews, Ty Morgan, Paul Ratledge, and Michael and Gregory Jones; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Tyler and Dorothy Morgan; beloved wife, Martha "Sis" Morgan; son, James David Morgan; and brother, William P. Morgan; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morgan's many achievements as a wrestling coach are indeed impressive, but even more impressive is his lifelong commitment to mentoring his athletes and

students; he introduced them to positive influences and experiences and taught them the value of "courage, humility, perseverance, dedication, loyalty, integrity, and honesty"; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman renowned for his "generosity, kindness, and deep empathy," Jim Morgan set an example through his "supporting and encouraging love for his family and friends" that we would all do well to emulate; 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 the memory of James "Jim" Weldon Morgan of Chattanooga, reflecting fondly on his incredibly successful career as a wrestling coach at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Baylor School and his many positive contributions to our society as a teacher and leader of young people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and extend our condolences to Coach Morgan's family and many friends.

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