

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 243

By White

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Smyrna High School Bulldogs on winning the 2019 TSSAA Division I State Bowling Championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school athletic teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors for this State; and

WHEREAS, the Smyrna High School Bulldogs achieved an extraordinary level of success during their 2018-2019 season, winning the coveted Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Division I State Bowling Championship, the State's highest level of high school bowling competition; and

WHEREAS, state championships are achieved only through hard work, dedication, and the ability to work together as a team and excel with a cooperative spirit; the mighty Bulldogs exhibited each of these rare qualities during their championship season; and

WHEREAS, amassing a perfect 24-0 season record, the Bulldogs bested all contenders they faced during the regular season and their incredible playoff run; after winning district and regional titles, the Bulldogs reached the apex of their sport with an impressive win over Hardin County High School (21-6) to claim the TSSAA State Championship on January 19, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the bowlers of Smyrna High School epitomize all that is good in today's student athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character in all aspects of life; they inspired the school's student body and united the community during their triumphant run through the 2018-2019 championship season; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of these exceptional athletes made the 2019 championship season possible; having previously won it all in 2011, 2009, 2006, and 2005, Smyrna holds the State record for most bowling championships, with five; and

WHEREAS, in addition to winning five championships, Smyrna has competed in the State Tournament eight additional times and recorded eight runner-up finishes; and

WHEREAS, previous and current Bulldog bowlers have combined to set several more TSSAA State records, including highest Division I State Tournament series by an individual; most 300 Games at the State Tournament; highest game score and highest series by an individual at the State Tournament; highest game and highest match score by a team at the State Tournament; and highest State Tournament score by a Division I team; and

WHEREAS, the members of this championship team include Josh Meeke, Xavier Powell-Short, Blake Evans, Timothy Smith, Aaron Roe, Zackary Taylor, James Boone, Blake Davis, and Elizabeth Coutta; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his talents on the bowling lanes, Josh Meeke was selected as 2019 Mr. Bowler after winning the Boys Individual Division I TSSAA Bowling Championship; and

WHEREAS, the Bulldogs enjoyed the dedicated leadership of their coaches, Carl Syler and Kelly Marlin; and

WHEREAS, the Smyrna High School Bulldogs bowling team enjoyed the strong support of its principal, Dr. Sherri Southerland, and the faculty; and

WHEREAS, the members of this championship bowling team also received the boisterous encouragement and support of their parents, grandparents, family members, friends, and fans; and

WHEREAS, the Smyrna Bulldogs' many accomplishments surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Bulldogs of Smyrna High School for winning the 2019 TSSAA Division I State Bowling Championship and for serving as exemplars of the high quality of the youth of Tennessee; 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 hereby honor and congratulate the players, coaches, faculty, families, friends, and fans of the Smyrna High School Bulldogs bowling team on completing a remarkable season and winning their fifth TSSAA Division I State Bowling Championship. The Bulldogs have proven themselves to be exemplary athletes and are worthy of this General Assembly's accolades.

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