

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 460  
By McAfee

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Henry Bowles, head basketball coach at Howard High School, on his 600th victory.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is especially pleased that our state has some of the best high school coaches in the nation; men and women, who have long legacies of winning and producing high quality teams and players; and

WHEREAS, Coach Henry Bowles, head basketball coach at Howard High School in Chattanooga is unquestionably one such outstanding coach, who has produced winners on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, in the 1996 District 6-AAA Tournament, the Hustlin' Tiger coach won his 600th victory, an extremely rare feat, by beating East Ridge 60-35; and

WHEREAS, his overall record at that point was an enviable 600-220, a winning percentage of .730; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Howard, Coach Bowles began his distinguished coaching career in the fall of 1959, along with high school teammates Calvin Sorrells and Theodore Thompson, after graduating from Lane College, where he played football; and

WHEREAS, early in his career, he coached all sports in junior high, from baseball and basketball to track and football; and

WHEREAS, when the high school's head basketball coaching position became open, the principal, William Murphy, urged him to take the job, which he reluctantly agreed to take for one season; and

WHEREAS the team pleaded with him to come back as coach the next season and with his expert guidance, Howard reached the state tournament; since then Coach Bowles has averaged 23 wins a season and has taken his alma mater to the state tournament 15 times, advancing to the finals twice, in 1972 and 1984; and

WHEREAS, unlike many coaches, he strongly believes in giving any person who wants to be on the team, athletic ability aside, a chance to be a Tiger; and

WHEREAS, Coach Bowles has said "I believe whatever job you start, start it by giving 110 percent. And then finish it with 110 percent. I won't cut corners on my beliefs, I stick by them."; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to recognize this fine coach on his accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor Coach Henry Bowles on his 600th victory and his tremendous service to Howard High School and Tennessee athletics and wish him well in his future endeavors.

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