

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 901

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Todd Helton on being elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing a native Tennessean who has attained the very pinnacle of sporting achievement; and

WHEREAS, Knoxville native and legendary University of Tennessee athlete Todd Helton has recently been elected to the iconic National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, with nearly eighty percent approval by the Baseball Writers' Association of America; and

WHEREAS, Todd Helton played his entire career of seventeen years and 2,247 games with the Colorado Rockies of the National League, who selected him eighth overall in the 1995 Major League Baseball (MLB) draft and then honored him as the first Rockies player to have his number (17) retired on August 17, 2014; and

WHEREAS, he left baseball with peerless career totals in all offensive categories, finishing with a .316 batting average, .953 OPS (On-base Plus Slugging), 2,519 hits, 369 home runs, and 1,406 runs batted in (RBIs); he also won three Gold Gloves for his defensive play as a first baseman; and

WHEREAS, a five-time All-Star, four-time Silver Slugger, and a key figure in Colorado's 2007 National League Championship, Todd Helton holds the Rockies' club records for hits, home runs, doubles, walks, runs scored, RBIs, games played, and total bases; and

WHEREAS, each season from 1999 to 2004, Todd Helton met or exceeded all of the following totals: .320 batting average, 39 doubles, 30 home runs, 107 runs scored, 96 RBIs, .577 slugging percentage, and .981 OPS; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, he won the batting title with a .372 average, led MLB with a .698 slugging percentage, 59 doubles, and 147 RBIs, and topped the National League with 216 hits; and

WHEREAS, the Associated Press, *Sporting News*, USA Baseball Alumni, and *Baseball Digest* all named Todd Helton the MLB Player of the Year for his extraordinary 2000 season; and

WHEREAS, as a youth, Todd Helton attended Central High School in Knoxville, where he was a letterman in both football and baseball; as a senior, he posted a .655 batting average and 12 home runs, was named the Regional Baseball Player of the Year, and received All-American honors from *Baseball America*; and

WHEREAS, he then attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, on an athletic scholarship and played both football and baseball; he was the back-up quarterback for the Vols for his first two seasons and started during the 1994 campaign before being injured and replaced by the legendary Peyton Manning; and

WHEREAS, Todd Helton was awarded the Dick Howser Trophy as National Collegiate Baseball Player of the Year following his junior baseball season in 1995; and

WHEREAS, during his singular baseball career at Tennessee, he recorded a .370 batting average, with 38 home runs and 238 RBIs (both school records), while also pitching 193 innings, registering an Earned Run Average (ERA) of 2.24, with 172 strikeouts and 23 saves; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Todd Helton set the Tennessee saves record with 11, while posting a 0.89 ERA; he also holds the NCAA Division I record for most consecutive scoreless innings at 47; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from baseball, Mr. Helton and his family returned home to Knoxville, and they are proud residents of the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, Todd Helton is arguably the best baseball player ever to hail from Tennessee, and he is most worthy of our approbation on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Todd Helton on being elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame, salute his outstanding MLB career and his many athletic accomplishments at the University of Tennessee and Knoxville Central High School, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.