

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14

By McCormick

A RESOLUTION to honor the Ooltewah High School Lady Owls for their 2008 TSSAA Class AAA Girl's Softball State Championship.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary athletes and athletic teams that have attained the ultimate laurel in sporting competition, namely a state championship; and

WHEREAS, the Ooltewah High School Lady Owls softball team was recently crowned as the 2008 TSSAA Class AAA Girl's Softball State Champions; through their magnificent exploits, these remarkable young ladies have brought honor to Tennessee while serving as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, representing Ooltewah High School in tournaments throughout the year, the Ooltewah Lady Owls added to their incredible year by winning the Soddy Daisy Tournament; the Bob Jones Tournament in Huntsville, Alabama; and the Gibbs Lady Eagle Tournament in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, enjoying standout pitching and clutch hitting, the Ooltewah Lady Owls softball team dominated all challengers, earning the moniker of champion in sterling fashion by claiming the regular season District Championship, District Tournament Championship, Regional Tournament Championship, Sectional Championship, and finally winning the 2008 TSSAA Class AAA Girl's Softball State Championship in grand style, giving up only one run in the last eight playoff games; and

WHEREAS, after posting a stunning record of forty-six wins and only three losses, the Lady Owls achieved a number eleven national ranking in USA Today newspaper and a number eleven national ranking in Rivals.com Top Fifty teams; and

WHEREAS, indeed, well deserved honors and accolades have been bestowed on several Lady Owls players: Kaitlin Neil, Brianna Shoemake, and Holly Thomas were named to the All-State Team. Holly Thomas was also named the “Tennessee Gatorade Player of the Year,” an honor going to the Top Softball Player in the State; and

WHEREAS, the leadership of the Ooltewah Lady Owls head coach, Norma Nelson, and assistant coach, Jeannie Cochran, is without peer; the support of family, fans, and the entire Ooltewah High School community has provided positive reinforcement to the players and has taught them valuable lessons about life, sportsmanship, and fair play; and

WHEREAS, during this incredible championship season, the members of the Ooltewah Lady Owls softball team have etched their names onto the hearts of Tennesseans and into the annals of Tennessee sports history; and

WHEREAS, these young women have displayed ability, character, teamwork, and perseverance and, with the help of their coaches, parents, and supporters, have represented their community and the State of Tennessee in fine fashion, displaying peerless ability both on and off the softball diamond; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING that we honor and congratulate the coaches, players, and fans of the Ooltewah Lady Owls softball team for their heralded success on the softball diamond and upon winning the TSSAA Class AAA Girl’s Softball State Championship.

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