

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 56

By Montgomery

A RESOLUTION to recognize Gary Householder on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, this body is honored to recognize those coaches throughout the State who have spent years in unflagging pursuits of victory and inspiring a countless number of Tennessee's students to success, both on and off the playing field; and

WHEREAS, Gary Householder is one such estimable coach who, as one of the state's most successful high school football coaches over the past three decades, has recently announced his retirement at the end of this season; and

WHEREAS, during his amazing career Coach Householder has guided the Eagles of Seymour High School to a remarkable record of 280 wins against only 106 losses, beginning with his first win on August 29, 1975, through the completion of the 2008 season; and

WHEREAS, joining the Seymour coaching staff in 1972, Gary Householder served as an assistant coach for three seasons before taking the reins as head coach in 1975, eventually adding the duties and responsibilities as Athletic Director in 1984; and

WHEREAS, the Seymour High Eagles have enjoyed tremendous success under Coach Householder, making twenty-two trips to the state playoffs, reaching the quarter-final round five times and the state semi-finals in 1980, 1999, and 2000; and

WHEREAS, Coach Householder's Eagle squads claimed District Champion titles in 1977, 1980, 1981, 1984, and 1990, and Regional Champion titles in 1980, 1981, 1993, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, and 2008; and

WHEREAS, adding yet another highlight to his stellar career, the 2008 edition of the Seymour High football team defeated their biggest in-country rival, Sevier County, by a score of 13-7, thrilling Eagle fans as 3-A Seymour, like David against Goliath, proved victorious against the Smoky Bears from the much larger 5-A ranks; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to individual awards and accolades, Gary Householder was named East Tennessee Coach of the Year in 1980, 1981, 1999, and 2000 as well as District Coach of the Year in 1977, 1980, 1981, 1984, 1986, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, and 2008; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the Eagles paid tribute to Coach Householder by naming their football stadium in his honor, and in 2003, the new Seymour High School field house was named the Gary Householder Athletic Field House in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to Seymour's student-athletes; and

WHEREAS, lauded for his teams' success on the gridiron, Coach Householder is especially proud of his players' success in the classroom and as citizens of the Seymour community, watching each generation of young men mature and grow into capable, self-confident, and remarkable individuals; and

WHEREAS, though he has accumulated a multitude of honors, the award that Coach Householder treasures most is his selection in 1980 as Community Man of the Year by the Seymour Optimist Club in recognition of the tremendous positive impact he has had on the lives of so many young men in the Seymour community; and

WHEREAS, his passion for teaching and for coaching is evident in his prestigious record of success, and he exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Gary Householder is the son of the late Earstel Benton Householder and Marjorie Lopasser Householder, and he is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Janet Norton Householder, and their two daughters, Audra Leanne, who is married to Michael Christopher Webb; and Andrea Deanne; and they are the proud grandparents of Aidan Vance Webb; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Coach Gary Householder has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and his players; 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 congratulate Gary Householder on the occasion of his retirement,

fondly looking back over the many successful years he spent as a football coach at Seymour High School, and extending to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success 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.