

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 171

By Zachary

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Bob Kesling upon his twentieth anniversary as the Voice of the Vols on the Vol Radio Network.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to formally recognize those talented professionals whose influence on and participation in the sports broadcasting profession is of great importance and whose talent has set them apart; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is veteran sports broadcasting professional Bob Kesling, who is marking his twentieth year as the Voice of the Vols of the more than seventy stations that make up the Vol Radio Network; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kesling began his association with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, as a walk-on fullback on the 1972 freshman football team, and he began his broadcasting career two years later, when he was hired by John Ward as a film editor for the *Bill Battle Show* on the Vol Television Network; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Bob Kesling was hired to serve as Mr. Ward's spotter for Vol Network radio broadcasts, and he sat beside the legendary Voice of the Vols in the booth for fifteen seasons, spotting and handling pre-game, halftime, and post-game interviews; and

WHEREAS, a proud 1977 graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, he served as the radio play-by-play voice of the Lady Vol basketball team from 1978 until 1999 and called Pat Summit's first six NCAA National Championships; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kesling was named the Voice of the Vols on the Vol Radio Network on July 1, 1999, serving as the play-by-play voice for Tennessee football and basketball; he also hosts *Vol Calls*, the weekly coaches call-in radio show, and the *Big Orange Hotline* during football season; and

WHEREAS, the Vol Network Director of Broadcasting, Bob Kesling also hosts the *Jeremy Pruitt Show* and *Rick Barnes Show* on the Vol Television Network; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kesling previously served as sports director of WIVK Radio and as sports director and anchor of WBIR-TV in Knoxville; he also worked for Jefferson-Pilot Sports on its SEC Television package and served as both pre-game host and play-by-play announcer for the basketball network and sideline reporter and play-by-play announcer for the football broadcasts; and

WHEREAS, he has served as play-by-play announcer for the SEC football and basketball championship games on the SEC radio network, the NCAA Women's Basketball Final Four on CBS/Westwood One radio network, the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament on CBS/Westwood One radio network, college baseball on Fox Sports, and University of Tennessee baseball and Lady Vol basketball on the Vol Network package, which is carried on Fox Sports South; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kesling gives back to his community through his service on the board of directors for Goodwill, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame; he also served as the 2013 United Way campaign chairman; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and awards, Bob Kesling was inducted into the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame in 2015; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Kesling is most grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife, Tami; his daughters, Allison and Melissa; his sons-in-law, Grant and Jim; and his grandsons, Jack and George; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kesling epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Bob Kesling is a Tennessean of whom we can all be proud, and it is highly appropriate that the members of this General Assembly recognize such an esteemed legend of sports broadcasting; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Bob Kesling upon his twentieth anniversary as the Voice of the Vols on the Vol Radio Network and pay tribute to his many years of sports broadcasting excellence and service to the good people of Tennessee.

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