

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 784

By Williams K

A RESOLUTION to recognize Roscoe "Charlie" Bayless on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Roscoe "Charlie" Bayless, longtime head coach of the boys' basketball team at Happy Valley High School, is one such estimable person who has served the City of Elizabethton with distinction; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bayless has served with acumen and alacrity as the head coach since the 1953-54 season and will be stepped down from his position in his final regular-season game against Sullivan East High School in February 2012; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Bayless was born in Washington County on October 1, 1923; and

WHEREAS, he attended Happy Valley High School (HVHS), during which time he lettered four years in basketball, three years in football, and one year in baseball; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation, Mr. Bayless served with valor and distinction as a Military Police traffic officer with the third army in England, Belgium, and Germany; and

WHEREAS, during his service in Germany, Charlie Bayless was assigned to guard high German officers at Nuremberg Prison, where they stood trial for war crimes; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bayless returned to the United States in January 1946 at the rank of Staff Sergeant, at which time he married Jane Sisk; and

WHEREAS, he attended Milligan College for one year before transferring to East Tennessee State College, where he played for the Bucs for two seasons and served as the team's captain during his junior season; and

WHEREAS, he graduated in 1950 and, that June, he became an assistant coach at Happy Valley under head coach Carl Gouge; and

WHEREAS, from 1951 to 1952, Charlie Bayless moved to Jonesboro to serve as their head coach before promptly returning to Happy Valley the following year to serve as an assistant; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, Mr. Bayless took over as the head coach at HVHS, the position in which he has enjoyed a long and fruitful career; and

WHEREAS, among his many noteworthy achievements, Charlie Bayless is the only coach to ever win the Watauga Conference in all sports: baseball, basketball, football, track, and golf, and he reorganized the baseball team in 1956 for the first time in fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, his basketball teams have won twelve conference championships, ten district titles, three regional titles, and have made it to the TSSAA state tournament seven times, including in 1974, when they won the Class A state championship; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bayless has logged an astounding 964 victories, ranking third overall in the state. He ranks first in the number of games coached and the Happy Valley Gymnasium was named in his honor in 1961; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Bayless is a 1974 recipient of the National Association of Basketball Coaches Achievement Award and he was named Head Coach for the East/West All Star Basketball Game that same year; and

WHEREAS, he served as the assistant coach to the late Walter "Buck" VanHuss in the McDonald's All-Star Game in 1989; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, he was inducted into the TSSAA Hall of Fame and, two years later, he was honored similarly by East Tennessee State University and Happy Valley; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, he was named Head Coach for TN All-Stars vs GA in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, his innumerable accomplishments aside, Charlie Bayless is also deeply devoted to his family and he always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he is perhaps most proud of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Jane; their four daughters, Sarae Trivett, Kathy Garland, Karen Goulds, and Charlene Bayless; grandchildren, Kristen Garland Taplin, Mandy Trivett, Gabe Goulds, Melissa Walker, Ross Garland, and Kortney Goulds Caldwell; and great-grandchildren, Grady and Jada Goulds, Camdyn and Rylan Garland, Trinity and Taylor Hively, Dereck Taplin, and Corbin Trivett; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Bayless exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Bayless has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, players, and the good people of the Carter County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Charlie Bayless our congratulations upon his retirement as the head coach of the boys' basketball team at Happy Valley High School, extending our deepest gratitude for his many years of service and our best wishes for every future happiness.

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