

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1045

By Halford

A RESOLUTION recognizing Heather Butler of the University of Tennessee at Martin on her stellar high school and collegiate basketball careers.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those student-athletes who, throughout their years of athletic endeavors, reach incredible heights of accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, Heather Butler, a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) and a valuable member of the Skyhawks basketball team, is one such talented individual; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Butler is one of the finest basketball players in the country who, in four years of play at UTM, climbed to sixteenth place on the NCAA's all-time scoring list, just one of the many incredible feats of athleticism she has accomplished during her high school and collegiate careers; and

WHEREAS, Heather Butler attended Gibson County High School, during which time she lifted the Lady Pioneers girls basketball team to incredible heights. She was a valuable contributor to the team's success during the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 seasons, when the Lady Pioneers won two consecutive state championships, winning seventy games and losing only one during that time; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Butler left Gibson County High as the school's all-time scoring leader with 2,289 career points. She also holds the record for the most points scored in state tournament play, with ninety-three, and was named the 2010 TSSAA Class A Ms. Basketball; and

WHEREAS, as a collegiate player, Heather Butler set a number of school, conference, and NCAA records during her four years as a Skyhawk; and

WHEREAS, as a sophomore, she surpassed the mark set by the illustrious Pat Summitt, becoming the fastest UTM player to reach 1,000 career points, and by the end of her collegiate career, Heather Butler amassed a total of 2,865 points, which established a new scoring record both for the school and the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC). Her total also ranks sixteenth all-time in NCAA history; and

WHEREAS, a talented shooter with deadly aim beyond the three-point arc, Ms. Butler established a new NCAA record for three-pointers in a career with 392 long-range baskets made; and

WHEREAS, she was also a player of incredible endurance, playing in 129 games throughout her career as a Skyhawk, and in each of those games, Ms. Butler scored in double-digit figures. Her mark of 129 straight games in double figures is the second-longest streak in NCAA history and is fifth on the all-time NCAA list; and

WHEREAS, during the 2013-2014 season, Heather Butler finished ninth in the country in scoring, tallying 23.6 points per game, and she garnered the OVC Player of Year honors for her contributions; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Ms. Butler earned All-OVC First Team honors four times; led the Skyhawks to two OVC season championships, four OVC Tournament championships, and four consecutive NCAA Tournament berths. She was named a Senior CLASS Award All-American first team selection, a Final Five finalist for the Nancy Lieberman Award, a nominee for the AllState WBCA Good Works team, was named to the CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-America second team, and garnered OVC Scholar-Athlete honors; and

WHEREAS, throughout her stellar and inspirational career as a basketball player, Heather Butler has displayed an unwavering commitment to the pursuit of personal and athletic excellence, and it is wholly fitting that she be recognized by this body for her many accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and commend Heather Butler for her numerous outstanding accomplishments as a basketball player and as an individual, extending our best wishes for her success and happiness in all 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.