

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7002

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Sarah Fuller of
Vanderbilt University.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we honor those exceptional individuals whose courage and strength of character lead them to become champions, not only on the playing field but also in the game of life; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Sarah Fuller of Vanderbilt University, who on November 28, 2020, became the first female football player to participate in a football game for a Power Five college football team in the NCAA; and

WHEREAS, a goalkeeper for the SEC Champion Vanderbilt University women's soccer team, Ms. Fuller helped her soccer teammates win the SEC tournament championship just days before being called upon to kick for the Vanderbilt Commodores football team; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished student athlete, Sarah Fuller leaped at the opportunity to compete on the gridiron and dedicated herself to helping the Commodores in their game against the University of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, for women athletes around the world, another glass ceiling broke as Sarah Fuller strode onto the football field in Columbia, Missouri, to kick off the second half of the game while wearing a helmet that bore a "Play Like A Girl" sticker; and

WHEREAS, that following Monday, November 30, 2020, she was honored by the SEC as the Co-Special Teams Player of the Week; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2020, Ms. Fuller was called upon to suit up for the Commodores against the University of Tennessee, and she engraved her name in the annals of American football history for all time by splitting the uprights on two extra points to become the first woman to score in a Power Five conference football game; and

WHEREAS, a senior at Vanderbilt, where she is pursuing a degree in medicine, health and society, Sarah Fuller hails from Wylie, Texas, and is a graduate of Wylie High School, where she was a star athlete; she began playing soccer at the age of five and was a goalkeeper for Hugh Bradford at D'Feeters ECNL; and

WHEREAS, her soccer career at Vanderbilt has been a story of dedication and determination, as she has had to overcome a number of injuries that delayed her debut on the pitch until her sophomore year and only played in two games before her senior season; and

WHEREAS, as a senior, she started nine of the Commodores twelve games, posting three clean sheets on the way to a 7-2-0 record in net with a 0.97 goals against average, which is the eighth-best record in a season in Vanderbilt history; and

WHEREAS, she made her first career start in goal against South Carolina on October 11, 2020; earned her first collegiate win in a double-overtime win against Florida on October 18, 2020; and enjoyed a shutout streak of 314:34 during the regular season; and

WHEREAS, during the Vanderbilt Commodores' 2020 SEC Tournament championship run, Sarah Fuller started in goal in all four contests, posting a shutout in the second round against Mississippi State and tallying an outstanding assist on a goal in the quarterfinals against Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a decorated scholar athlete, she was named to the 2017 SEC First-Year Academic Honor Roll, the 2018 SEC Academic Honor Roll, and the 2019 SEC Academic Honor Roll; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fuller's noteworthy achievements are a tremendous source of pride for her family, her teammates, Vanderbilt University, and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Fuller's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of the members of this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and honor Sarah Fuller of Vanderbilt University on her historic achievements and extend to her our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.