

HOUSE RESOLUTION 43

By Turner M

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Verner Winfield Dean for his many contributions as a fan of Vanderbilt University women's basketball.

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 athletic support; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Verner Winfield Dean, who at the age of eighty-nine, is one of the most fervent supporters of the women's basketball program of Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, born in 1919 in Joelton, Tennessee, he is a man of integrity who embodies the best of his community; and

WHEREAS, moving to Old Hickory at an early age, Mr. Verner was a superior athlete, excelling in both baseball and basketball for DuPont High School; and

WHEREAS, taking great pride in the important role he played in protecting our national security, liberty, and freedom, Mr. Dean heroically and honorably served in the United States Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dean selflessly served in the Army Medical Corps with courage and gallantry while administering medical aid to his fellow soldiers on the battlefields of Germany; recognized for heroism in the line of duty, he received a purple heart after sustaining a wound in his leg; and

WHEREAS, after being captured during the Battle of the Bulge, Mr. Dean spent the last six months of the war in a German prison camp, enduring cold, tough, and bitter conditions as a prisoner of war; and

WHEREAS, liberated in 1945 and discharged from the Army later that year, he arrived home to start work with the DuPont Company; and

WHEREAS, taking advantage of the G.I. Bill, he enrolled at Vanderbilt University and received his degree upon completion of his coursework; and

WHEREAS, continuing his career with the DuPont Company, Mr. Dean served in his position with acumen and alacrity, earning the respect of his peers and colleagues alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dean has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the State of Tennessee, participating in numerous noteworthy civic, veterans, and social organizations; he holds memberships in the Old Hickory P.O.W. Chapter, the Old Hickory Veterans Committee, and is an avid, and the oldest, member of the Vanderbilt University women's basketball "Hoops Crew"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dean possesses a vitality and a zest for life that is extraordinary for a person of any age; as a graduate of Vanderbilt University and longtime fan of Vanderbilt athletics, he enjoys going to Vanderbilt games with his son, Doug, his daughter, Lisa, his granddaughter, and his great-granddaughter; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband, he is perhaps proudest of the love he shared with his late wife, Elinor Dean; and

WHEREAS, men of Verner Dean's prominence do not often walk among us, and it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to honor the bountiful life of this exceptional human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and recognize Verner Winfield Dean for his tireless and unwavering support of the women's basketball program at Vanderbilt University, applaud him on his exceptional and bountiful life, and wish him well in all 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.