

HOUSE RESOLUTION 44

By Love

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Eddie George on becoming the new head football coach at Tennessee State University.

WHEREAS, we are most pleased to welcome star football player, successful businessman, and compassionate philanthropist Eddie George to the Tennessee State University (TSU) family as the head coach of the football program; and

WHEREAS, Eddie George has proven himself to be a winner in every aspect of life, and we are certain that his winning ways will translate to the TSU football team and its future success both on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, most importantly, Eddie George will serve as an exemplary role model for these young men as they seek to become responsible and productive citizens, in addition to attaining success on the gridiron; and

WHEREAS, Coach George will also demonstrate the importance of maintaining one's peak physical, mental, and spiritual condition to meet the challenges of both college athletics and life; and

WHEREAS, since winning the Heisman Trophy as an elite running back at The Ohio State University and being selected in the first round of the 1995 NFL draft, Eddie George has built a substantial legacy through myriad endeavors; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, he won several NFL Rookie of the Year awards, including selection as the Associated Press Offensive Rookie of the Year, and soon solidified his status as the Titans' best running back since Earl Campbell; and

WHEREAS, through his unique combination of speed, power, and toughness, Eddie George came to epitomize durability in the NFL and earned four consecutive Pro Bowl selections between 1998 and 2001; and

WHEREAS, he joined the elite company of Jim Brown when he became only the second NFL running back in history to rush for 10,000 yards while never missing a start; and

WHEREAS, a passionate and ultra-competitive player, Eddie George started 128 consecutive regular-season NFL games, second only to the legendary Walter Payton; and

WHEREAS, the holder of practically every Houston/Tennessee franchise rushing record, he led the 1999 AFC Champion Tennessee Titans to Super Bowl XXXIV; and

WHEREAS, since leaving football behind, Eddie George has continued his education and will soon receive his MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University; and

WHEREAS, he has used his education, experience, and passion to build businesses dedicated to improving the quality of life for all Americans, including EGX Lifestyle, which promotes healthy living, and EDGE, which is focused on building healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, in addition to working in media and entertainment, Eddie George is heavily engaged in and richly rewarded by philanthropy and donates his time and resources to various charitable groups, including his own nonprofit organization, Visions with Infinite Possibilities; and

WHEREAS, he is also a devoted family man who is most grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife, Tamara "Taj" Johnson-George, a Grammy-nominated singer who sold more than six million records as a member of the soul group SWV, and their sons, Eric and Jaire; and

WHEREAS, Eddie George has agreed to assume the mantle of leadership as TSU's football coach as a means of giving back to Nashville and serving the TSU community, two worthy endeavors; and

WHEREAS, we are most certain that Eddie George will channel his passion and pride to continue the proud TSU football legacy founded by Coach John A. Merritt and continued by so many others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and congratulate Eddie George on becoming the new head football coach at Tennessee State University and extend to him our best wishes for much success and satisfaction in his new job.

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