

HOUSE RESOLUTION 191

By Hawk

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Head Coach Grady Lingerfelt and the Unicoi County High School Lady Devils on winning the 2009 TSSAA Class AA State Softball Championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Unicoi County High School Lady Devils achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2009 season, winning the TSSAA Class AA State Softball Championship; and

WHEREAS, the only school in Northeast Tennessee to ever win a state softball championship, the Lady Devils of Unicoi County High School compiled a phenomenal season record of 48-4 as they laid claim to their second state championship title, having previously won the state title in 2002; and

WHEREAS, having to play defending six-time champion Goodpasture Christian School twice in the state tournament to win the top trophy, the Unicoi County Lady Devils used timely hitting, superb pitching, and amazing fielding to defeat Westview and Lexington in the early rounds to set up a second and final game with Goodpasture; and

WHEREAS, in the championship game a three-run homer by Lady Devil Ali Gardner erased an early one-run deficit, scoring teammates Mikayla Treadway and Emilee Lovette to give Unicoi County a 3-1 lead; and

WHEREAS, at one point retiring thirteen consecutive batters, Lady Devil pitcher Kara Woods made the 3-1 lead standup as she earned her 44<sup>th</sup> victory of the season and completed the season with 472 strikeouts; and

WHEREAS, state championships are won only through hard work, dedication, and a special team spirit that bonds teammates together; the Lady Devils exhibited each of these rare qualities during their 2009 championship season; and

WHEREAS, cultivating the talent of each of his players, Head Coach Grady Lingerfelt shared his wisdom and knowledge of the game in guiding this outstanding group of athletes to achieve their goal to become state champions; and

WHEREAS, the softball players of Unicoi County High School epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success on the field while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible a championship softball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Unicoi County High School Lady Devils for winning the 2009 TSSAA Class AA State Softball Championship and for serving as examples of the high quality of the youth of Tennessee; 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 congratulate Head Coach Grady Lingerfelt and the Unicoi County High School Lady Devils on their remarkable 2009 season and upon winning the TSSAA Class AA State Softball Tournament Championship.

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