

HOUSE RESOLUTION 329

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor the Vanderbilt University women's bowling team on winning the 2018 NCAA National Championship.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are pleased to recognize a Tennessee athletic team that persevered through a long and arduous season to win the ultimate prize of a national championship; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2018, the Vanderbilt Commodores claimed the school's fourth national title by winning the 2018 NCAA Women's Bowling National Championship in St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, entering the tournament as the No. 4 seed, Vanderbilt stunned No. 1 seed Nebraska and then bested Southland Bowling League foe Sam Houston State to earn a matchup with defending champions, No. 2 seed McKendree, in the finals; and

WHEREAS, in the dramatic title match, Vanderbilt rallied from a 2-3 deficit to win two straight games and vanquish McKendree 4-3, thus winning the 2018 NCAA National Championship; and

WHEREAS, the Commodores took the do-or-die Game 6 thanks to a clutch performance in the 10<sup>th</sup> frame; in the winner-take-all Game 7, Vanderbilt drilled four consecutive strikes to build a lead the team refused to relinquish; and

WHEREAS, Vanderbilt's Emily Rigney and Katie Stark were deservedly honored as the NCAA Tournament's Most Valuable Players; and

WHEREAS, this national title is the second in Vanderbilt women's bowling history and the second for Coach John Williamson, who led the Commodores to their first NCAA National Championship in 2007; Vanderbilt also finished as national runner-up in 2011 and 2013; and

WHEREAS, the members of Vanderbilt's 2018 NCAA National Championship team are Kelsey Abrahamsen, Maria Bulanova, Samantha Gainor, Bryanna Leyen, Jordan Newham, Ariana Perez, Lauren Potechin, Kristin Quah, Emily Rigney, Katie Stark, and Adel Wahner; and

WHEREAS, the Commodores benefited greatly from the expertise, leadership, and tough love of Head Coach John Williamson and Assistant Coach Josie Earnest Barnes; and

WHEREAS, a relentless bowling machine collectively, the Vanderbilt Commodores now proudly wear the crown of national champions, and they should be commended for this remarkable achievement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and congratulate Coach John Williamson and the Vanderbilt University women's bowling team on winning the 2018 NCAA National Championship, thus bringing back the gold to the Home of the Black and Gold in Nashville, and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success in their 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.