

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 41

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Coach Thomas Joe Weathers, Sr., of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Coach Thomas Joe Weathers, Sr., of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, a Chattanooga coaching legend and community leader, Tom Weathers enjoyed a storied career as a football coach at both the high school and collegiate levels in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Joe Weathers, Sr., was born on November 22, 1939, in Columbus, Mississippi, to William Lewis Weathers and Ludy Williamson Weathers; he was a 1957 graduate of New Hope High School in Columbus, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS recruited to play football for the University of Chattanooga by Coach Scrappy Moore, Tom Weathers enjoyed a tremendous career with the Moccasins as a four-year letterman and two-year captain of the football team; and

WHEREAS, he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education from the University of Chattanooga in 1962 and later earned a Master of Arts degree in Health and Physical Education from Tennessee Technological University in 1969; and

WHEREAS, his storied coaching career began in Atlanta, Georgia, where he served as an assistant coach at Cross Keys High School and Lovett High School from 1962 to 1964; he returned to Tennessee in 1964, when he was named an assistant football coach and co-head coach of the wrestling team at Kirkman Tech High School in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Coach Tom Weathers entered the collegiate coaching ranks as an assistant coach at Tennessee Technological University; in 1969, he accepted a coaching position under Coach Harold Wilkes at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and served as the defensive coordinator for the Moccasins in 1972; and

WHEREAS, his most celebrated contributions to football in Tennessee began in 1973, when he was named the head coach at Red Bank High School; over the next twenty-nine years, he built a dynasty , amassing a winning percentage of seventy-two percent with a record of 222-85; and

WHEREAS, under his guidance and coaching acumen, Red Bank High School finished as state runners-up in 1978 and captured the state title as TSSAA Class 5A State Champions in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Coach Tom Weathers completed his coaching career in 2008, having enjoyed short stints at Dade County High School in Georgia, Soddy Daisy High School, and Signal Mountain High School; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Coach Tom Weathers was named to the TSSAA Hall of Fame in 2018, the Tennessee Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2017, the Greater Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame in 2007, the NFHS Athletics Association Hall of Fame in 2000, the Chattanooga Old Timers Hall of Fame in 2000, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Athletics Hall of Fame in 1999; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, he was named the Tennessee Titans High School Coach of the Year, the TSSAA Football Coach of the Year, and the TACA Football Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected educator, Coach Joe Weathers was honored as the Red Bank Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year in 1990 and received the Top of the Profession award at Red Bank High School in 1991; and

WHEREAS, a vital part of his profession, Coach Weathers was a member of the Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association, the National Strength and Conditioning Association, the Tennessee Education Association, and the Hamilton County Education Association; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and devout member of Red Bank Baptist Church and a proud attendee of Jim and Ina Hall's Sunday School class; and

WHEREAS, Coach Weathers was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his devoted wife of forty years, Lynda Moreland Weathers; their son, Thomas Joe Weathers, Jr.; and his parents; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his second wife, Allyson Landrum; his children, Wendell (Michelle) Weathers, Jeff (Amy) Weathers, Lindsay Landrum Patton, and Leslie Landrum Brickman; his grandchildren, Lewis Weathers, Chris Bradbury, Justin Weathers, Kaitlyn Born, Reagan Weathers, Ashley Weathers, Nicholas Weathers, Haley Weathers, and Michael Weathers; his great-granddaughter, Ashlyn Bradbury; and his sister, Patte W. Marines; and

WHEREAS, Coach Tom Weathers leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Coach Thomas Joe Weathers, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Coach Weathers.

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.