

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 270

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to recognize Baylor School Baseball Coach
Gene Etter on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Gene Etter, a beloved teacher and outstanding baseball coach at Baylor School in Chattanooga, is one such estimable person who will retire at the close of this, his 41st season of Baylor baseball; and

WHEREAS, Coach Etter has had a magnificent coaching career, having won state championships in 2003 and 2006, with numerous regional and district championships to his credit. He has recorded approximately 850 wins, which is the second-most all-time in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Coach Etter dons a number of monikers that reflect his baseball prowess; he is called the gentleman genius because he is such a good coach, is always graceful in victory or defeat, and has never been ejected from a game. He is also called the dean of Chattanooga baseball coaches because of his long and successful tenure in the sport; he has coached and taught some coaches he has since faced on the diamond, and most say he is one of the best and smartest baseball coaches ever; and

WHEREAS, his reputation in the classroom is sterling as well, and he has earned great respect for his mastery as an educator; he has garnered universal admiration from his students, his colleagues, and citizens throughout the Chattanooga community; and

WHEREAS, Gene Etter played football at the University of Tennessee, where he made history with a 76-yard touchdown run that enabled the Volunteers to upset Ole Miss in a late

1950s game; he served as a football assistant under his father, legendary coach Red Etter, at that institution as well; and

WHEREAS, Coach Gene Etter was a professional baseball player for the Chicago Cubs organization, marrying his wife at home plate prior to a game while playing for the Cubs' minor league affiliate in Dallas–Fort Worth, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Gene Etter exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to education and sports that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; he has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity in every aspect of his career at Baylor, and the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize and applaud him at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Gene Etter our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, applaud his outstanding career in education and sports, and extend to him our best wishes for success in all of 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.