

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 306

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Garry Kreis of Oliver Springs.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Garry Kreis; and

WHEREAS, Garry "Coach" Kreis was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Oliver Springs, Mr. Kreis was the son of Bill and June Kreis. He attended Oliver Springs Elementary School and later received his diploma from Oliver Springs High School in 1966; after graduating, he was awarded a scholarship to play football for the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, during his time as a Tennessee Volunteer, Garry Kreis was a talented player who helped the team win two Southeastern Conference championships in 1967 and 1969 as well as a National Championship in 1969; and

WHEREAS, after a brief stint with the San Francisco 49ers in the National Football League, Mr. Kreis returned to East Tennessee and worked with acumen and alacrity for the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant and the C and C Bank for several years; and

WHEREAS, finding his true passion in coaching and teaching, Garry Kreis began his more than thirty-year career as a coach at Norwood Middle School in Oliver Springs. He served as an assistant football coach at Coalfield High School for seven years before becoming head coach at Coalfield; and

WHEREAS, as head football coach, Mr. Kreis was known as a tough disciplinarian on the field who was always caring and compassionate toward his students. During his stellar

tenure, Coach Kreis led his teams to the playoffs eighteen of his twenty-one years as head coach; and

WHEREAS, saved and baptized at a young age, Mr. Kreis spent his early years as a member of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church; he was most recently a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, and he also attended services at Central Baptist Church in Oak Ridge with family during the past five years; and

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Kreis was preceded in death by his parents and his precious son, Mark. He will be fondly remembered by his brothers, Bill Kreis and Ronnie Kreis; his nieces, Lisa Kreis Loos and Lori Kreis Bowen; nephews, Andrew Kreis, Matthew Kreis, and Jason Dutka; numerous great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins; and a host of friends and former players and students; and

WHEREAS, Garry Kreis 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 TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Garry Kreis, 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 Mr. Kreis.

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