

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 403

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor the University of Tennessee men's basketball team on an excellent season.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary student athletes who have attained the pinnacle of competition, thus bringing honor and acclaim to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee Volunteers, coached by the legendary Rick Barnes, epitomize excellence both on and off the basketball court; and

WHEREAS, the 2018-2019 Vols distinguished themselves as one of the most accomplished and celebrated teams in the program's 110-year history by tying the school record for wins and finishing the season with an excellent overall record of 31-6; and

WHEREAS, for the first time in school history, the Vols spent the entire season ranked among the national top ten, including four weeks ranked at number one in both major polls; and

WHEREAS, from late November through mid-February, Tennessee won a school-record nineteen consecutive games; the highlight of this phenomenal run was a neutral-site victory over then-unbeaten and top-ranked Gonzaga in Phoenix, one of their three triumphs over teams ranked in the top five; and

WHEREAS, the Vols posted a pair of memorable wins over rival Kentucky in league play and finished second in the Southeastern Conference (SEC) with a 15-3 record; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteers set school records for points, assists, and blocks in a single season, reached the finals of the SEC Tournament, earned a number-two seed in the NCAA Tournament, and advanced to the Sweet Sixteen for the first time since 2014; and

WHEREAS, in the first round of the NCAA tourney, Tennessee bested Colgate and then won an overtime nail-biter over Iowa in the second round to advance to the Sweet Sixteen; in

that round, the Vols overcame an eighteen-point second-half deficit versus Purdue to send the game to overtime but ultimately did not prevail; and

WHEREAS, junior forward Grant Williams led the Vols in scoring, rebounding, and steals and became the first player since 1995 to win SEC Player of the Year honors in consecutive seasons; he was Tennessee's 16th all-time First Team All-American honoree and a finalist for every major national player of the year award; and

WHEREAS, senior wing Admiral Schofield, the team's leading three-point shooter and second-leading scorer, was a First Team All-SEC selection; and

WHEREAS, junior point guard Jordan Bone, whose 215 assists ranked third on Tennessee's all-time single-season list, was a Second Team All-SEC honoree; and

WHEREAS, this memorable team of sixteen extraordinary student athletes earned the respect and admiration of sports fans across the State of Tennessee and the nation not only by showcasing their prowess on the hardwood but also by standing as a unified example of teamwork, dedication, selflessness, and bold faith; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2018-2019 Tennessee men's basketball team are Jordan Bone, Lamonte Turner, Grant Williams, Jacob Fleschman, Admiral Schofield, John Fulkerson, Kyle Alexander, Brad Woodson, Jalen Johnson, Derrick Walker, Jordan Bowden, Lucas Campbell, D.J. Burns, Zach Kent, Brock Jancek, and Yves Pons; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteers were blessed with the coaching genius of Rick Barnes, the recipient of the USBWA Henry Iba National Coach of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, Coach Barnes's outstanding staff includes Rob Lanier, associate head coach; Desmond Oliver, assistant coach; Michael Schwartz, assistant coach; Garrett Medenwald, strength and conditioning coach; Chad Newman, senior associate director of sports medicine; Bryan Lentz, video coordinator/director of player development; Mary-Carter Eggert, director of basketball operations; Aubin Goporo, director of student athlete development; and Kyle Condon, assistant to the head coach; and

WHEREAS, the young men who comprise the 2018-2019 University of Tennessee men's basketball team stand as leaders on their campus and role models in their community,

exemplifying The Volunteer Creed of "one that beareth a torch shadoweth oneself to give light to others," and they are richly deserving of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Coach Rick Barnes and the University of Tennessee Volunteers men's basketball team on a record-setting, 31-win season that culminated in a trip to the Sweet Sixteen and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success next season.

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