

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 433

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate head coach Matt Bradshaw and the Watertown High School boys' basketball team on an outstanding season.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those young men and women who demonstrate character and integrity while also excelling in the sporting arena; and

WHEREAS, the Watertown High School Tigers, led by head coach Matt Bradshaw, recently completed an outstanding roundball campaign, finishing the season with an appearance in the TSSAA Class A State Tournament and an overall record of 30-4; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Tigers dominated play in District 8A with a perfect 9-0 record, claiming the regular season district championship and the top seed in the district tournament, which they also won; and

WHEREAS, entering the regional tournament as a top seed, the Tigers bested Pickett County in the first round and beat Jackson County in the semifinals to reach their first ever Region 4A championship game; and

WHEREAS, in fact the 2012-2013 Tigers are the first Watertown basketball team, either boys' or girls', to ever play in a regional final, although the 1934 squad did reach the finals of what was then the sectional round; and

WHEREAS, the Watertown Tigers reached another milestone when they won their first regional championship by taking down Clarkrange in the Region 4A finals; and

WHEREAS, in the sectional round, the Tigers trounced Grace Baptist to attain two additional milestones for the Watertown program; and

WHEREAS, their sectional victory propelled them to their thirtieth win for the first time in history and advanced the Tigers to their first ever TSSAA State Tournament; and

WHEREAS, in the state tournament, Watertown faced off against former Class A champion Lake County and played well, but an overtime loss ended their storybook season at 30-4; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers are fortunate to have the leadership and expertise of head coach Matt Bradshaw, who has taught his team the little things necessary to achieve great success; and

WHEREAS, Coach Bradshaw relied heavily on the acumen of assistant coaches Leon Love and Brian Gaines, managers Kyle Oakley and Allie Ricketts, and athletic trainer Carl Newton, and enjoyed the full support of principal Jeff Luttrell, assistant principal Terry Thompson, and athletic director Gavin Webster; and

WHEREAS, the Watertown roster is composed of fine young men who represent the epitome of the student-athlete while serving as ambassadors for their school, their community, and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Watertown Tigers are: Macieo Gaines, Ben Bain, Nick Sackman, Ethan Moss, Josiah Smith, Jake Belcher, George Theragood, Ty Jobe, Zach Edwards, Hunter Warren, Robert Caruthers, Cameron Jennings, Colin Jennings, Brant Martin, Dylan Speck, Nolan Allison, Kyle Oakley, Brandon George, and Bosco Allocco; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers were led to glory by Macieo Gaines, who was District 8A regular season and District 8A Tournament Most Valuable Player (MVP), Region 4A MVP, and an All-District 8A, All-District 8A Tournament, All-Region 4A, and All-State Tournament selection; and

WHEREAS, other Watertown players who deservedly received accolades for their hardwood prowess include Ty Jobe (First Team All-District 8A, All-District 8A Tournament, and All-Region 4A); Josiah Smith (First Team All-District 8A, All-District 8A Tournament, and All-Region 4A); Nick Sackman (All- District 8A Tournament); Ethan Moss (All- District 8A Tournament); and Ben Bain (All-Region 4A); and

WHEREAS, the Watertown Tigers have reached the apex of Tennessee high school basketball as district and regional champions, and they should be appropriately recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate head coach Matt Bradshaw and the Watertown High School boys' basketball team on winning the District 8A regular season and tournament championships and the Region 4A championship en route to their first state tournament appearance and wish them 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.