

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 590

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION recognizing the University of Memphis upon its joining the Big East Conference.

WHEREAS, the University of Memphis is a fine institution of higher learning in this State, and its students and student-athletes bring pride, through their many and varied exploits and accomplishments, to Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the University of Memphis recently announced it will be joining, in the 2013-14 school year, the Big East Conference, a move which will provide the school's teams with new and exciting sporting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, as announced by University of Memphis president Dr. Shirley C. Raines and Big East Conference commissioner John M. Marinatto, the school will become an all-sports member in July of 2013; and

WHEREAS, the University of Memphis has a long, rich history of athletic excellence which complements the traditions of the Big East Conference. The school, which now competes in ten men's sports and nine women's sports, has captured national championships in golf, rifle, and track during its storied 100-year history; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers football team has earned berths in five bowl games in the past nine seasons and, over the last eight years, Memphis teams have won seventeen conference championships in men's basketball, men's soccer, women's soccer, women's golf, and men's track and field; and

WHEREAS, standing as paragons of excellence, the men's basketball program has captured five regular-season conference titles and five conference tournament championships, and has made three NCAA Final Four appearances, and the women's soccer program has

captured five straight league crowns and made five consecutive NCAA appearances from 2007-2011; and

WHEREAS, as members of the Big East Conference, the Tigers will once again face former conference rivals Louisville, Cincinnati, South Florida, DePaul, and Marquette; and

WHEREAS, as members of the Big East Conference, Memphis's sports teams will receive greater national exposure. Even before the addition of Memphis, the Big East Conference had the largest media footprint in college athletics, a footprint which will now reach more than 31 million homes, or nearly twenty-eight percent of all households in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the move to the Big East Conference will surely benefit the university, its sports programs, and its many students and fans in the coming years, and it is wholly fitting that this special occasion be recognized by this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate the administration, faculty, and students of the University of Memphis on the school's forthcoming membership in the Big East Conference and extend our best wishes for every success in this endeavor.

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