

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 616

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to honor Angela Hubbard of Nashville on the occasion of her retirement from teaching.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing an outstanding teacher and role model who overcame numerous obstacles to attain great success in life and inspired many of her students to do the same through her example and her warm, nurturing personality; and

WHEREAS, Angela Hubbard is taking a much-deserved retirement from the classroom and the playing field after a forty-two-year career in education that is unequalled in both quality and influence; and

WHEREAS, the youngest child of John and Ann Jo Hubbard, Angela Teresa Hubbard was born in Savannah; she displayed athletic ability at an early age, and despite her small size, she was a starter on the girls' basketball team from the seventh grade until her junior year at Central High School; and

WHEREAS, in October 1972, Ms. Hubbard was struck by a vehicle while she was walking home; the injuries to her right leg were so severe that her doctors opined she would never walk again; and

WHEREAS, she refused to accept this prognosis or to wallow in self-pity and was soon using crutches and a brace to conduct her own physical therapy on the injured leg, even dribbling a basketball while on crutches; and

WHEREAS, as she began to heal, Angela Hubbard encountered tragedy once again when her mother passed away on Christmas Day of 1972; and

WHEREAS, despite these setbacks, she persevered to complete her high school education and even returned to the basketball court during her senior year; although she played sparingly, Ms. Hubbard completed the season as a beloved member of the team; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hubbard then pursued studies in physical therapy at Tennessee State University, but after two years there, she transferred to Union University, where she resumed her basketball career as a walk-on starter and obtained her bachelor's degree and teaching certification; and

WHEREAS, after teaching one year in Missouri, Ms. Hubbard returned home to Savannah so that she could care for her father and her brother, who had Down syndrome, just as she had every weekend during her four years of college; and

WHEREAS, Angela Hubbard taught middle school physical education and served as the assistant basketball coach at her alma mater, Hardin County High School (formerly Central), during the 1980-1981 school year and became the head girls' basketball coach and softball coach the next year; and

WHEREAS, during that same year, her father passed away, and Ms. Hubbard became the primary caregiver for her brother for the rest of his life, a daunting task that she fulfilled with her usual common sense, compassion, dedication, and dexterity; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, she transferred to Dyersburg High School ,where she helped lead the girls' basketball team to a second-place finish in the State tournament, before returning to Nashville to ply her trade as a teacher and coach; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hubbard accepted a position at Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet High School, and except for the one year she taught at Two Rivers, she has been a fixture at the corner of Broadway and 7th Avenue ever since; and

WHEREAS, faced with the transition from leading a State tournament team to coaching girls who had never played basketball, Ms. Hubbard made slow, but steady, progress with her Hume-Fogg squad; and

WHEREAS, although she was warned not to expect too much from her Hume-Fogg girls, who were regarded as scholars first and foremost, Ms. Hubbard disregarded that advice in favor of her own philosophy of expecting the best of every student and led her team to a State Tournament appearance in 2009 and several district, regional, and sub-state victories along the way; and

WHEREAS, from 1990 to 2009, Ms. Hubbard also coached the Hume-Fogg track team; during her illustrious tenure, her team won State championships in 1998 and 2004, and her athletes won numerous individual championships between 1997 and 2004; and

WHEREAS, after hanging up her track cleats, Ms. Hubbard picked up her golf clubs and has coached the Hume-Fogg golf team since 2009; and

WHEREAS, although she is a humble person who is unaffected by praise or recognition, Ms. Hubbard has garnered recognition twice as Girls' Track Coach of the Year, Nashville Black Coaches Association Girls' Basketball Coach of the Year, Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association Track Regional Coach of the Year, and A.F. Bridges Coach of the Year and multiple recognitions as District Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, she has served as a role model and a parental figure for her students over the course of forty-two years and delights in their accomplishments and, in many cases, the accomplishments of a second generation of students, the children of her previous pupils; and

WHEREAS, her greatest joy is watching her son, John Angelo Hopson, flourish as a teacher and a coach; following in his mother's footsteps, Mr. Hopson served as an assistant coach for the Maplewood High School boys' basketball team that won the State Championship in 2017, and he is now the head boys' basketball coach at John Overton High School; and

WHEREAS, since facing the prospect of never walking again, Angela Hubbard has positively impacted the lives of thousands of students as an educator and coach and achieved great success in the male-dominated fraternity of coaching through her peerless tenacity, soaring spirit, and commitment to excellence; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable lady is richly deserving of our approbation on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Angela Hubbard of Nashville on the occasion of her retirement from teaching and coaching at Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet High School and wish her all the best during the golden years of her retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.