

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 652

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor Bettye Giles for her development and promotion of women's athletics at the University of Tennessee at Martin and across the state.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through their unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as exceptional athletes and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Bettye Giles is one such individual, who was instrumental in establishing women's intercollegiate sports at the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM); and

WHEREAS, a longtime educator, she began her life's work as a graduate assistant for the golf team at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville before earning her master's degree; and

WHEREAS, a successful career as a health and physical education teacher and an athletic administrator led to her well-deserved promotion to director of athletics at UTM, where she served for twenty-five years and helped her university earn a glowing reputation among women's athletic programs; and

WHEREAS, a member of the UTM faculty since 1952, Ms. Giles has served in many capacities, including cheerleader sponsor from 1952-1973 and coach for eight years in the women's tennis program, which she launched in 1952; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Giles has distinguished herself in the classroom by being associate professor of physical education and being named one of top two teachers in 1981-1982; and

WHEREAS, she has earned the highest esteem of her peers who elected her president of the UTM Faculty Senate; and

WHEREAS, she has been a friend and mentor to many, including Coach Pat Head Summitt and the sponsor of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, in honor of her great contributions to athletics, UTM, in 1979, created the Bettye Giles Award, which is presented annually to UTM's outstanding female athlete, and named a new on-campus softball facility the "Bettye Giles Field" in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Bettye Giles, a woman of true integrity and initiative, exemplifies dedication and leadership, and she is admired by her fellow Tennesseans for her tireless efforts to promote women athletes; and

WHEREAS, she is always guided by solid principles and high standards, whether in the academic or athletic arena, and it is most fitting that she be recognized; 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 hereby recognize and pay tribute to Bettye Giles for her commitment to equality, education, and public health, extending our best wishes for her every future success and happiness.

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