

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 817

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Shelley Sexton Collier as a coaching legend.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those excellent coaches who have led their players to success in athletic competition and in the game of life; and

WHEREAS, Shelley Sexton Collier is one such basketball coaching legend with more than thirty years of experience; she recently claimed her sixth state title when her Webb School of Knoxville Lady Spartans won the 2018 TSSAA Division II Class A State Championship; and

WHEREAS, a star player at Anderson County High School and captain of the first University of Tennessee Lady Vols team to win a national championship, Coach Collier has led the Lady Spartans to ten championship game appearances in addition to six state titles during her twenty-two-year tenure at Webb School of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, a protégé of the greatest coach in the history of women's collegiate basketball, Pat Summitt, Shelley Sexton Collier is a devoted mentor of young women who focuses on imparting life lessons to her charges in addition to her vast knowledge of basketball; and

WHEREAS, Coach Collier teaches her players the value of family, respect, loyalty, and pride in their community and instills in them a work ethic and a warrior mentality that have enabled many of them to exceed their own expectations in career accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, an intense leader who demands that her players always give their best effort, she previously coached at Clinton High School and led the Lady Dragons to the state tournament in 1991, marking the first time a Clinton team in any sport had qualified for a state tourney; and

WHEREAS, as a college player, Shelley Sexton Collier was a member of the University of Tennessee Lady Vols teams that reached the Final Four in 1984 and 1986, and she received individual accolades as the Most Valuable Player of the 1986 NCAA Regional in Iowa City; and

WHEREAS, years of frustration were swept away in 1987 when Coach Summitt and the Lady Vols won their first NCAA National Championship with Shelley Sexton Collier providing inspired leadership both on and off the court as captain; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Vols were honored in a White House ceremony as national champions later that year, and as captain, Shelley Sexton Collier was the fortunate player to present a Tennessee jersey to President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, prior to coaching at Clinton and after completing her exemplary playing career for Tennessee, she was a graduate assistant for Pat Summitt for several seasons and a vital component of the Lady Vols' second national championship in 1989; and

WHEREAS, as a high school player, Shelley Sexton Collier helped transplant a strong basketball tradition from Lake City to the new Anderson County High School, which opened in 1982 at the beginning of her senior year; and

WHEREAS, serving as captain of the Lady Mavericks, she averaged 23 points per game under the tutelage of Coach Tony Cross, who was another important influence in her life and career; she still holds the school record for most points in a game with 47; and

WHEREAS, Coach Collier has been deservedly honored with induction into the Knoxville, Lady Vols, and Anderson County High School halls of fame; and

WHEREAS, Shelley Sexton Collier has won her sixth state championship as a coach and distinguished herself as a great basketball coach, tactician, and motivator of young women, and she should be appropriately recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Shelley Sexton Collier as a basketball coaching legend, congratulate her and the Lady Spartans on winning the 2018 TSSAA Division II Class A State

Championship, salute her outstanding forty-year career as a player and coach, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success.

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