

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 863

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate coach Boyce Rowe for leading the first Henry County football team to capture a THSAA State Championship.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those coaches who have performed their duties with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and who, through their magnificent exploits, have brought honor to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable coach is Boyce Rowe, who led the first Henry County School football team to capture a Tennessee High School Athletic Association (THSAA) state football championship in 1964; and

WHEREAS, born on March 21, 1940, Mr. Rowe graduated from Central High School in Paris in 1958 and earned his bachelor's degree from Lane College in 1962; and

WHEREAS, a professional educator with an unwavering commitment to the edification of young people, Coach Rowe skillfully taught and coached basketball and football at Central Elementary and High School for many years; and

WHEREAS, at a time when segregation still plagued our public school system, student-athletes were also forced to compete on the gridiron in different tournaments, with African-American schools playing in THSAA events; and

WHEREAS, under Coach Rowe's exemplary leadership and guidance, Central High School achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 1963-64 season, capturing the first state football title for any Henry County school and inspiring the student body and the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, when the schools were finally integrated, Boyce Rowe took his tremendous talents to Grove High School in Paris and worked assiduously as a basketball and football coach; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the Henry County School System in 1977, he served with acumen and alacrity at the Tennessee Valley Authority until his retirement in 2000, during which time he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike due to the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, Boyce Rowe enjoyed thirty-five years of marital bliss with his beloved wife, Shirley Haynes Rowe, until she went onto her great reward earlier this year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rowe is also the proud father of Louise and the doting grandfather of Khamiah and Greg; and

WHEREAS, with his professional demeanor, impeccable integrity, and exceptional communication skills, Coach Rowe established himself as a preeminent figure in football; and

WHEREAS, Boyce Rowe epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and it is most appropriate that the members of this body should commend and applaud him for his amazing accomplishment; 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 honor and congratulate coach Boyce Rowe for leading the first Henry County football team to capture a THSAA State Championship, applaud his vaulted level of success and his dedication to excellence both on and off the football field, and extend to him our best wishes for every 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.