

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 990

By Campbell

A RESOLUTION to honor Pekka Rinne of the Nashville Predators upon his outstanding career in the National Hockey League.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in paying tribute to the best goaltender in Nashville Predators history: four-time National Hockey League (NHL) All-Star, Vezina Trophy and King Clancy Award winner, and franchise recordholder for wins, consecutive wins, and shutouts, Pekka Rinne; and

WHEREAS, Pekka Rinne retired from the NHL after the 2020-2021 season, but he is soon returning to Smashville to receive a great honor from the Predators; and

WHEREAS, before the game begins on February 24, 2022, Nashville will retire not only his jersey but also Pekka Rinne's number 35 to honor his many franchise records, superlative goaltending, unparalleled leadership, and humanitarian efforts as a Predator; and

WHEREAS, selected in the eighth round by the Predators in the 2004 NHL Draft, Pekka Rinne had won two consecutive championships as the goaltender for Karpas Oulu in Liiga, the top professional league in his native Finland, before moving to North America for the 2005-2006 season; and

WHEREAS, he won his NHL debut for Nashville on December 15, 2005, but spent most of the next two seasons with the team's American Hockey League affiliate, Milwaukee, leading the Admirals to the 2006 Calder Cup Final with ten postseason wins (three shutouts) and posting the most wins in the league in 2007-2008; and

WHEREAS, Pekka Rinne appeared in fifty-two games with the Predators in 2008-2009 and was named the February 2009 NHL Rookie of the Month; he placed fourth in voting for the Calder Trophy (NHL's Top Rookie) and played in the 2009 YoungStars Game; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Pekka Rinne won his Stanley Cup Playoff debut in Game 1 of the first round, thus claiming the first road victory in Predators playoff history; and

WHEREAS, in 2010-2011, Pekka Rinne finished second in Vezina Trophy (NHL's Best Goalie) voting and fourth in Hart Trophy (Most Valuable Player) voting while ranking second among NHL goalies in save percentage and third in goals against average; he and his teammates finished off the season by capturing Nashville's first playoff series victory in the Western Conference Quarterfinals; and

WHEREAS, after leading NHL goalies in wins, saves, games, and points during the 2011-2012 season, Pekka Rinne finished third in Vezina Trophy balloting; and

WHEREAS, in 2014-2015, he tied for second in wins, finished runner-up for the Vezina Trophy, and was nominated for the Bill Masterson Memorial Trophy; and

WHEREAS, Pekka Rinne's mastery of the butterfly style of goaltending, incomparable footwork, and remarkable glove hand were key to the Predators making their first trip to the Stanley Cup Final in 2017; he was 14-8 with a 1.96 GAA and .930 save percentage in twenty-two playoff games, helping Nashville eliminate three teams to reach the Final; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2018, Pekka Rinne became the thirty-fourth goaltender to record 300 career wins in the NHL with the third-highest win percentage of all goaltenders with at least 300 wins; and

WHEREAS, a four-time finalist and two-time runner-up for the Vezina Trophy, Pekka Rinne finally won the award given to the NHL's best goalie in 2018, finishing the season with a 42-13-4 record, 2.31 GAA, .927 save percentage, and eight shutouts; and

WHEREAS, he became only the twelfth NHL goalie to score a goal when he shot the puck from behind his own goal line into an empty net on January 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2021, in the final game of the 2020-2021 season, Pekka Rinne posted a 30-save shutout to earn his 369th and final career win, tying for nineteenth all-time in

the NHL, and his sixtieth career shutout, finishing nineteenth all-time in this category as well;
and

WHEREAS, Pekka Rinne's receipt of the 2021 King Clancy Memorial Trophy, which is given annually to the player who best exemplifies leadership qualities on and off the ice and has made a noteworthy humanitarian contribution in his community, capped off his exemplary career as the greatest Predator ever; among his many other humanitarian contributions, he joined with former teammate Shea Weber to spearhead the 365 Pediatric Cancer Fund; and

WHEREAS, a four-time NHL All-Star, Pekka Rinne was named to the 2018 All-Star First Team and received *The Hockey News* Patrick Roy Award as the best goalie in the league for 2012-2013; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his brilliant career in the NHL, Pekka Rinne was also an instrumental force in Finland's success in international play; he was named the Most Valuable Player of the 2014 International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Championship after he went 5-3 with a 1.88 GAA, .928 save percentage, and three shutouts to lead the Finns to a second-place finish, and he was honored as the top goaltender in the 2015 IIHF World Championship, during which he set a new record for minutes played without allowing a goal;
and

WHEREAS, the high esteem in which he is held by his country and his fellow citizens is evidenced by his selection as the 2017 Finnish Player of the Year and to the IIHF All-Time Finland Team in 2020; and

WHEREAS, for thirteen full seasons, Pekka Rinne proved his excellence on the ice, earning recognition as one of the best goaltenders in NHL history and the greatest Predator of all time, and he is worthy 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 Pekka Rinne of the Nashville Predators upon his outstanding career in the National Hockey League, congratulate him upon having his number 35 jersey retired by the Nashville Predators, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success in his future endeavors.

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.