

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1329

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the East Tennessee State University men's basketball team on an excellent season.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary student athletes who have attained the pinnacle of competition, thus bringing honor and acclaim to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the East Tennessee State University (ETSU) Buccaneers, coached by the legendary Steve Forbes, epitomize excellence both on and off the basketball court; and

WHEREAS, the 2019-2020 Bucs enjoyed a historic season, as they set a program record of thirty total wins en route to capturing both the Southern Conference regular season and tournament championships, thereby marking their eleventh NCAA Tournament appearance; and

WHEREAS, reaching the thirty-win mark, the Bucs have tied the single-season conference record, becoming the fourth team in Southern Conference history to win thirty games in one season; they share this rare air with the 2018-2019 Wofford men's basketball team, 1945-1946 North Carolina men's basketball team, and 1950-1951 North Carolina State men's basketball team; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Bucs were also one of only four teams, nationally, to win thirty games this past season; the Bucs' .882-win percentage was the best in program history and the sixth-highest across Division I programs; and

WHEREAS, ending the season on a twelve-game winning streak, the Bucs ranked twenty-sixth in the *USA TODAY* Sports men's basketball coaches poll, twenty-seventh in the *Associated Press* college basketball poll, and second on the *Collegeinsider.com* men's basketball Mid-Major poll; and

WHEREAS, the Buccaneers ranked eighth in scoring margin, twelfth in total steals, fifteenth in turnover margin, seventeenth in field goal percentage, and twenty-fifth in scoring defense and steals per game, setting them squarely among the national leaders in these categories; and

WHEREAS, in December, the Bucs took down the Louisiana State University (LSU) Tigers in Baton Rouge, marking the third time in the Coach Forbes era they accomplished the feat of knocking off a Power-5 school; the win was the Bucs' seventeenth all-time win against a Southeastern Conference opponent and their first over LSU; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2019-2020 ETSU men's basketball team were Tray Boyd III, Bo Hodges, Daivien Williamson, Patrick Good, Jeromy Rodriguez, Damari Monsanto, Octavion Corley, Isaiah Tisdale, Joe Hugley, Vonnie Patterson, Jordan Coffin, Lucas N'Guessan, Charlie Weber, and Ledarius Brewer; and

WHEREAS, the Buccaneers were blessed with the coaching genius of Steve Forbes, the recipient of the Southern Conference Coach of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, Coach Forbes led the Bucs to four Southern Conference championships and two NCAA tournament appearances as well as 130 wins, the most over a five-year run in program history at ETSU; and

WHEREAS, when the Bucs defeated the Furman University Paladins earlier in the season, Coach Forbes became the fifth coach in NCAA Division I history to lead a team to at least twenty-four wins for five consecutive seasons; and

WHEREAS, Coach Forbes's outstanding staff included Jason Shay, associate coach; Brooks Savage, assistant coach; BJ McKie, assistant coach; Frank Davis, director of basketball operations; Mike Starke, director of basketball sport performance; Chris Forbes, graduate assistant; Zach Bush, graduate assistant; and Brett Lewis, head athletic trainer; and

WHEREAS, the young men who comprised the 2019-2020 East Tennessee State University men's basketball team stand as leaders on their campus and role models in their community, and they are richly deserving of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Coach Steve Forbes and the East Tennessee State University Buccaneers men's basketball team on a record-setting season and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success next season.

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.