

SENATE RESOLUTION 179

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor Ed White for his many contributions to his community.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are pleased to recognize Ed White of Decatur County, a former star basketball player and boxer who has devoted his post-athletic career to helping troubled youth overcome life's many challenges; and

WHEREAS, a four-year starter for the Riverside High School basketball team, Mr. White was named All-District, All-West Tennessee, and All-State during his senior season; and

WHEREAS, a dynamic player blessed with ability, he still holds school records for most blocks in a game, most blocks in a season, most dunks in a game, and most dunks in a season; and

WHEREAS, although recruited by several major universities, Ed White accepted a scholarship from Lipscomb University, where he played under the legendary Don Meyer, then the winningest coach in college basketball history, who taught Mr. White the importance of morality, ethics, and values; and

WHEREAS, during his junior season, Lipscomb was ranked as high as fourth in the nation, and Mr. White was named to the All-Tournament team; and

WHEREAS, firm in his conviction that attending Lipscomb was one of the best decisions he made in life, Ed White earned a bachelor's degree in health and physical education from the school; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Lipscomb, Mr. White earned a tryout with the Atlanta Hawks, but a knee injury intervened, and he retired from basketball; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White was encouraged to try boxing as a career after returning home to Decatur County, and he trained for three months before entering the ring; and

WHEREAS, inside the squared circle, Ed White used his size, height, and athleticism to destroy his competition on the amateur circuit, knocking out all his opponents in the first round to compile a 15-0 record; and

WHEREAS, competing for the Golden Gloves Championship, he pummeled his opponent through the ropes in the first round to take the victory and the belt; and

WHEREAS, after taking a hiatus from boxing, Ed White returned to the sport as a professional; he won the Mid-South Championship belt in five rounds against the "King of Tennessee," Ray Lunsford, in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Ed White's most prestigious fight was against Eric "Butterbean" Esch, the reigning super heavyweight champion at the time; the match was part of the undercard of a televised championship fight featuring Oscar De La Hoya; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White posted a 21-8 record as a professional boxer, before deciding to retire in the interest of maintaining his good health; still, he treasures his time in the ring and credits the sport with developing his warrior spirit, which has been instrumental in helping him overcome the obstacles he has faced in life; and

WHEREAS, for the past twenty-seven years, Ed White has helped teenage students in the Decatur County school system with their emotional, mental health, and chemical dependency issues, offering compassion and guidance during trying times; and

WHEREAS, a humble Christian, Mr. White also trains and counsels young boxers; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, he is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Doris, and his son, Bradley; and

WHEREAS, Ed White has devoted his third career to helping troubled youth seek a brighter tomorrow; there is no higher calling, and he is deserving of our gratitude and approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Ed White for his

many contributions to his community, reflecting fondly upon his outstanding athletic career, and wish him all the best 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.