

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 35

By Roach

A RESOLUTION recognizing Dr. Chris Jones.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those citizens who, through their excellence, have brought honor to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Chris Jones is one such individual who, through his dedication to athletics, is wholly deserving of just such recognition; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jones was a standout athlete while attending Cocke County High School, from which he graduated in 1958.

WHEREAS, upon matriculating to Carson-Newman College, Dr. Jones quickly established his athletic prowess on the basketball court. The school's first All-American in any sport, Dr. Chris Jones led the team to its first two national basketball tournaments; was the three-year leading scorer and Most Valuable Player in the Smoky Mountain Conference, the Volunteer State Athletic Conference, and the NAIA District 24; was one of the highest scorers in the nation in 1961-1962; became the first Carson-Newman player to score more than 2,000 points; was recognized as the Most Valuable Player and named to the All-Tournament team in more than twenty tournaments; was chosen as Mr. Carson-Newman College in 1962; and held every basketball record at the college at the time of his graduation, many of which still stand; and

WHEREAS, a star on the hardwood, Dr. Jones's collegiate basketball highlights include setting the records for most points scored in one game (44), most free throws made in one game (21), most points scored in one half (32), best free throw percentage over a career (86%), most consecutive free throws (57), most free throws made in a season (221), most games in

which forty or more points were scored (3), and most points scored in a national tournament game (35); and

WHEREAS, following his college success, Dr. Chris Jones went on to play professionally for the Cincinnati Royals, the Kansas City Steers, the Oakland Oaks, and the Louisville Colonels, and he was instrumental in convincing the National Basketball Association that Atlanta was a suitable market for a professional basketball team, laying the groundwork for the establishment of the Atlanta Hawks; and

WHEREAS, he was also an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) star, playing for Macon and Atlanta and gaining AAU All-American honors three times. Certainly no stranger to awards and accolades, Dr. Jones was named the Best Amateur Player in the Southeast four times, named as the Best Amateur Player in the State of Georgia five times, played in four consecutive AAU national tournaments, and was chosen to participate in the World Cup Basketball Tournament; and

WHEREAS, during his AAU career, Dr. Chris Jones averaged forty-five points per game during his five years playing for Macon, scored 101 points in a single game, eighty points or more five times, and earned the National Masters Tournament scoring record of fifty-three points per game average. He has also averaged twenty-six wins per year during his twenty-five years of coaching high school and collegiate basketball teams; and

WHEREAS, age has not blunted his abilities, as evidenced by his designation as the International Three Point and Free Throw State Champion in 1996; his participation in the Senior Olympics, National Senior Games, and ten State Championships; and his performance during one game when, at the age of sixty-two, he hit twenty three-point shots, a national record for seniors; and

WHEREAS, after earning a master's degree from the University of Mississippi, Dr. Jones earned his doctorate from the University of Georgia. He is also known as the author of *It Gets Foggy at Mossy Creek*, a history of Carson-Newman College athletics; and

WHEREAS, during his seven years as the head coach of the Carson-Newman basketball team, Dr. Chris Jones led his teams to a 191-62 record, and his teams of 1983 and 1984 each won an impressive thirty-one games. He also guided his team to the national

tournament in Kansas City and closed out his collegiate coaching career with a top-five NAIA win percentage; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jones has been inducted into numerous halls of fame, including the Cocke County High School Hall of Fame, the Carson-Newman College Sports Hall of Fame, the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, and the NAIA National Basketball Athletic Hall of Fame, and he was named to Carson-Newman's Team of the Century as a player and coach; and

WHEREAS, a humble man who gives all credit for his many accomplishments to God, Dr. Jones, who is widely known as the "Shot Doctor" and the "Swish Doctor," is wholly committed to serving his community and volunteers his time and energies towards helping others in a number of ways; and

WHEREAS, his athletic abilities and accomplishments are without peer, and Dr. Jones has served as an inspiration to many of his fans, players, and peers, and it is wholly fitting that he be recognized by this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Dr. Chris Jones for his many accomplishments in the field of athletics, applaud his commitment to excellence in the classroom and on the field of play, and offer our best wishes for his continued success in the future.

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