

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 70

By Powell

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mookie Betts upon his World Series win with the Boston Red Sox.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially honor and commend those successful athletes who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Markus Lynn "Mookie" Betts, a Major League Baseball player and member of the Boston Red Sox, who recently led his team to victory at the 2018 World Series; and

WHEREAS, born in Nashville on October 7, 1992, Mookie Betts is the son of Diana Collins and Willie Betts; it was from his mother, who grew up on a working farm, and father, an Air Force and Vietnam War veteran, that he learned discipline and the value of hard work; and

WHEREAS, the story of Mr. Betts's athletic career began when he was five years old; after being denied a spot on a Nashville Little League team due to his diminutive stature, his mother gathered him and several other smaller children who were also excluded and started her own team, a challenge she was up for as a former star high school softball player; and

WHEREAS, Mookie Betts went on to prove himself an exceptionally gifted athlete; during a trip to the University of Tennessee for a youth baseball camp, he thoroughly impressed then-coach Rod Delmonico, who encouraged him to continue playing the sport. Years later, as a junior at John Overton High School, Mr. Betts signed a letter of intent to attend the University of Tennessee on a baseball scholarship; and

WHEREAS, his plans changed, however, when he was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the fifth round of the 2011 Major League Baseball Draft as the 172nd overall pick,

subsequently rescinding his commitment to the University of Tennessee and signing a \$750,000 contract with the Red Sox; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Betts made his Major League Baseball debut in the 2014 season, sharing time between second base and the outfield; later that year, he became the starting center fielder, before moving to right field in 2016; and

WHEREAS, 2018 has been a banner year for Mookie Betts, as he became the first player in American League history to win the World Series, Silver Slugger, Golden Glove, AL batting title, and Most Valuable Player award in the same year; and

WHEREAS, this year's crowning achievement for Mr. Betts was when he and his fiancée, Brianna Hammonds, with whom he has been in a relationship since the two attended Oliver Middle School, welcomed their first child on November 6, 2018; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we honor one of Tennessee's finest athletes on this auspicious occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Markus Lynn "Mookie" Betts upon his World Series win with the Boston Red Sox, extending our best wishes to him for much success and happiness in the years to come.

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