

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 97

By Brooks K

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Head Coach Eric Phillips and the Cleveland High School wrestling team upon winning the 2011 TSSAA Division I State Championship title.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable sports team is the Cleveland High School wrestling team, which achieved an extraordinary level of success in the 2010-2011 season by winning the 2011 TSSAA Division I State Championship title; and

WHEREAS, one of the most demanding sports, wrestling is also one of the oldest sporting competitions, tracing its roots to the ancient Greeks and the earliest Olympic games; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Eric Phillips, the Cleveland Blue Raiders exhibited true grit and determination to win their first state championship since 1994; and

WHEREAS, at the end of the first night's competition at the Division I State Wrestling Tournament held at the Williamson County Agricultural Exposition Arena, the Cleveland team had amassed a total of 61 points but still trailed their cross-town rivals, the Bradley Central Bears, by 16 points and the Soddy-Daisy team by two; and

WHEREAS, an amazing run of victories in the quarterfinals, semifinals, and consolations primed the Blue Raiders for success in the finals, with Cleveland winning 38 of 43 matches to put itself in a perfect posture for a run for the title; and

WHEREAS, in a hard-fought championship win, the Cleveland Blue Raiders bested the Bradley Central Bears by two and one half points, and finished three and one half points ahead of third-place Soddy-Daisy; and

WHEREAS, a total of ten Blue Raiders earned medals for Cleveland during the three day tournament which culminated in their championship victory; and

WHEREAS, a team with uncommon dedication and motivation, the Cleveland Blue Raiders wrestling team includes: Austin Stevison, Austin Oliver, Joel Simpkin, Haden Hamilton, Brandon Strickland, Marvin Lopez, Aaron Lopez, Josh Hamilton, Chuck Norwood, Isaiah Nichols, Juan Bobe, Jesse Jones, Seth Snyder, and Jordan Hines; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Eric Phillips laid the groundwork for this year's championship season by sharing with these young men his substantial knowledge of wrestling, his many years of coaching and athletic experience, and his passion both for the sport of wrestling and for excellence in every endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the wrestlers of Cleveland High School epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the wrestling mat; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a championship wrestling season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Cleveland High School wrestling team for winning the 2011 Division I State Championship title and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of Tennessee; 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 congratulate the coaches and members of the Cleveland High School wrestling team upon winning the 2011 TSSAA Division I State Championship title,

commend them upon a successful wrestling season, and wish them every success in all their 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.