

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 504

By Darby

A RESOLUTION to honor Charles Vernon "Chuck" West, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those outstanding professionals who have devoted their careers to providing the highest-quality education and learning environments for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Charles Vernon "Chuck" West, Jr., who, having distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity, is taking a much-deserved retirement on June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, a native of Oneida, Mr. West has devoted forty-two years of his life to Dresden High School, serving as its principal for the last thirty-two years; and

WHEREAS, Chuck West began his illustrious tenure at Dresden High School in 1979, when he gained employment as a teacher, head boys' basketball coach, girls' assistant basketball coach, and assistant football coach; and

WHEREAS, Coach West led his 1986 and 1994 boys' basketball teams to the substate round; his 1987 and 1988 teams reached the State Tournament, and the 1988 team advanced to the final four; and

WHEREAS, he had the pleasure and privilege of coaching both his sons in high school basketball, as well as Popeye Jones, a future NBA player, and was selected Coach of the Year several times by his peers in the district and region; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Mr. West embraced the opportunity to serve as the principal at Dresden and thus resigned from coaching to become an administrator; and

WHEREAS, Coach West returned to sports in 1994 as the head boys' basketball coach while continuing to serve as principal; in 2003, he resigned from coaching for the second time,

but returned again in 2004 to serve as assistant girls' basketball coach under his son Jonathan, the head coach; and

WHEREAS, Mr. West was honored with the A.F. Bridges Sportsmanship Award-Principal of the Year for 1999-2000, and he currently serves as TSSAA basketball chairman for District 14-A and TSSAA district coordinator; and

WHEREAS, as a coach, Mr. West worked to instill discipline, respect, determination, and motivation in his athletes, and as a principal, he has always supported his teachers, staff, and students absolutely; and

WHEREAS, he teaches his students the importance of morals, patriotism, honesty, and compassion, even as he encourages them to continue their education after high school; and

WHEREAS, even after nearly forty-five years as an educator, Mr. West still loves working with young men and women and contributing to their maturation and growth in becoming assets to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Chuck West is the son of the late Elizabeth Sharp West, an elementary school teacher, and the late Charles Vernon West, Sr., a mortician and funeral director; Mr. and Mrs. West, Sr., took great pride in the fact that all five of their children completed post-secondary educations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. West contributed to a family tradition by pursuing teaching as a profession; in addition to his mother's service in the classroom, his sisters, Beth West Armstrong and Melanie West Duncan, are both teachers; and

WHEREAS, a 1973 graduate of Oneida High School, Chuck West was a star basketball player there; the fact that his picture still hangs in the foyer of the school's gym speaks volumes about his legendary status on the court; and

WHEREAS, after high school, he enrolled at the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM), from which he earned a degree in education in furtherance of fulfilling his dream to become a teacher and coach; and

WHEREAS, he earned his master's degree in education administration at UTM in 1982, and completed an additional forty-five hours of graduate work there in 1987; and

WHEREAS, his numerous professional achievements aside, Mr. West is most grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife, Katrina (Robinson) West, a dental hygienist; and his sons, who have paid him the ultimate compliment of following in his footsteps as educators; Jonathan Walton West, who played on his father's 1994 substate team, is a teacher and coach at Dresden High School, and Justin Robinson West is a substitute teacher and volunteer coach there; and

WHEREAS, an active member of the Dresden Church of Christ, Chuck West also gives back to his community as a longtime member of the Dresden Rotary Club; he previously served as Rotary Club president; and

WHEREAS, Chuck West has truly served as an inspiration to the faculty and staff at Dresden High School, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, Chuck West has worked assiduously throughout his career to motivate his students, teachers, and staff to reach their full potential as scholars, professionals, and citizens, and he should be specially recognized on the occasion of his retirement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Charles Vernon "Chuck" West, Jr., upon his exceptional service as a teacher, coach, and principal at Dresden High School and wish him much continued success and happiness during his retirement.

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.