

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 581

By Dixie

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Charles F. Wilson, Jr.,
for his achievements in track and field.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially honor those accomplished athletes who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as ambassadors for this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable person is Charles F. Wilson, Jr., who achieved an extraordinary level of success in track and field; and

WHEREAS, a trailblazer in the arena of track and field, Mr. Wilson made history as the first African American in a variety of track and field competitions and activities; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the North High School track team in Nashville, Mr. Wilson was the first African American to receive the Man of the Year Award from the Nashville Interscholastic League, which preceded the governance of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association; and

WHEREAS, while attending Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), he set school records in the 60-, 100-, and 220-yard dashes, and he was a member of the Sprint Medley Relay Team, which broke the world record at the Dogwood Relays in Knoxville in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wilson, Jr., was also a charter member of the MTSU Mu Zeta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, after he suffered an injury in 1973, Mr. Wilson coached a girls' intramural track team and became the first African American to coach a team at MTSU; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wilson, Jr., ran for and coached under Coach Dean Hayes, for whom the current track and field complex is named on the MTSU campus; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Mr. Wilson was honored for his leadership and athletic achievements in the MTSU Mu Zeta Chapter and the Nashville and Murfreesboro communities; and

WHEREAS, a man of extraordinary achievement, Mr. Wilson is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of the members of this General Assembly; 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 honor and commend Charles F. Wilson, Jr., for his extraordinary level of success in track and field and extend our best wishes for every success 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.