

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 695

By Hemmer

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Christ Presbyterian Academy football team, TSSAA Division II, Class 2A state champions.

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

WHEREAS, the Christ Presbyterian Academy football team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2023 season, winning the coveted Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Division II, Class 2A State Football Championship; and

WHEREAS, after earning a regular-season record of 13-1, the Christ Presbyterian Lions vanquished every opponent, winning by an average of twenty-nine points, on their way to the state championship game at Finley Stadium in Chattanooga, where they bested unbeaten Boyd-Buchanan School 35-13 in the title matchup; and

WHEREAS, this year's state title is the program's first since 2020 and its sixth championship trophy overall in six consecutive championship game appearances for the Lions; and

WHEREAS, Christ Presbyterian was led by Mr. Football finalist and game MVP Crews Law, who has committed to play for the University of North Carolina; Mr. Law got the scoring started on the opening drive with a seventy-three-yard rushing touchdown out of the Wildcat formation behind fellow senior and Ole Miss commit John Wayne Oliver; and

WHEREAS, Crews Law finished with a team-high 121 yards and the touchdown on nine carries, while adding 5.5 tackles on defense; senior Braden Streeter tossed a pair of second-

quarter touchdowns to sophomore Owen Cabell and senior and University of Tennessee commit Jackson Mathews to balloon the score to 21-3 heading into halftime; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Streeter finished 7-14 for 100 yards and two touchdowns, while Mr. Cabell was the leading receiver with two catches for sixty-five yards, including the thirty-five-yard score; sophomore Rawls Patterson quashed any chance of a second-half comeback for Boyd-Buchanan with a fourteen-yard score on the first drive of the third quarter, and he ran for a twenty-yard score with just over three minutes left, finishing with 108 yards and two scores on sixteen carries; and

WHEREAS, Christ Presbyterian's defense, which enjoyed the return of University of Georgia commit Ondre Evans, held the competition to less than 200 yards, including only twenty-three through the air, and junior Steele Chance led the way with 11.5 tackles; and

WHEREAS, the Christ Presbyterian Lions benefited from an outstanding coaching staff led by Head Coach Ingle Martin, a former Tennessee Titan who has now won four state titles in his eleven years of leading the football program; and

WHEREAS, state championships are achieved only through hard work, dedication, and the ability to work together as a team and excel with a cooperative spirit; the Lions exhibited each of these rare qualities during their championship season; and

WHEREAS, the football players of Christ Presbyterian Academy epitomize all that is good in today's student athletes, as they have achieved the highest level of success on the field while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the field; they inspired their fellow students and united the entire community during their triumphant run through the 2023 season; and

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

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the football players of Christ Presbyterian Academy for serving as exemplars of the high quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the players, coaching staff, team support staff, administrators, cheerleaders, and fans of the Christ Presbyterian Academy football team on winning the 2023 TSSAA Division II, Class 2A State Football Championship.

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.