

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 696

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Ravenwood High School football team on winning the 2015 TSSAA Division I Class 6A State Football Championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is 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 Raptors of Ravenwood High School achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2015 season, winning their first Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Division I Class 6A State Football Championship, the State's highest level of high school football competition; 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 mighty Raptors exhibited each of these rare qualities during their championship season; and

WHEREAS, amassing an exceptional 14-1 season record, the Raptors achieved their season-long goal to avenge last season's loss by defeating Maryville High School (26-17) in the BlueCross Bowl on December 5, 2015, in Cookeville, to capture the school's second football title and end a forty-four game winning streak for the nationally ranked Rebels; and

WHEREAS, the members of this championship team include Zach Erickson, Seth Smeltz, Ayodele Badalola, Blake Van Landingham, Nathan Facer, Alex Eagon, Nathan Freeman, Tahj Williams, McCain Marrow, Cole Carteaux, Nate Stoner, Angus Spence, Sean Spence, Jason Jones, Hunter Boyd, Austin Gearlds, Adam Lipford, John Rall, Drew Hughes, Andrew Rappe', Robert Li, Andrew Lutgens, Kelson Casteel, Nash Rhodes, John Thompson, Nick Harper, Zack Stallcup, Trip Waring, Chris Rowland, Jacob Ricketts, Henry Scott, Carter

Nelson, Neil Shukla, Gunner Martin, Kyle Briggs, Graham Wallace, Nick Gipson, Ramez Ibrahim, Caelan Gleaves, Chase Kerr, Elijah Dryer, Cameron Scherer, Parker Cox, Joey Kramer, Darius Harper, Nick Stallcup, Seth Erickson, Onterio Rice, Jace Walters, Grayson Linde, Connor Jeffries, Justin Walker, Parker Nash, Austin Jett, Austin St. Arnold, Jack Kopecky, Miller Powell, Connor Dodson, Alex Roseberry, Nelson Smith, Jordan Moore, Connor Cassin, Mason Dills, Drew Harmon, Brandon Huff, Jared McArthur, Patrick Leitten, Mitchell Tener, Hatcher Morris, Bryce Bains, Isaac Happel, Sam Lee, Jackson Leffler, Jackson Wood, Tyler Samson, Maurice Gerald, Joe Salek, Reggie Walker, Tavion Mills, Zack Kessler, Andrew Ramsey, Connor Holland, Elric Davis, Luke Sadler, Matt Pietragallo, Jackson Boyd, Lucas Bangerter, Ehidiemem Imeokparia, D'Angelo Rice, Sam French, Bennett Donahue, Cameron Matlock, Brad Bloedorn, Davis DeLoach, Merrill Bouyer, Nick Boone, Mason Stauffer, Nathaniel Croft, Jim Roebuck, Ian Vissman, Crews Holt, Matthew Tumlin, and Jake Shouse; and

WHEREAS, in the championship game, the Raptors produced stellar performances at every position, as the defensive unit forced Maryville into four turnovers, including three interceptions, which was one more than the Rebels' quarterback had thrown all season; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Football Kicker of the Year Crews Holt showcased his powerful leg and booted four field goals during the game, earning Offensive Most Valuable Player honors; and

WHEREAS, displaying his tremendous all-around talents, Raptors standout Chris Rowland rushed for 46 yards, and caught five passes for 117 yards and a touchdown, while also throwing one pass for five yards and a touchdown; and

WHEREAS, the Raptors enjoyed the dedication and commitment to excellence displayed by Head Coach Will Hester, who helped mold these young men into champions both on and off the gridiron; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the superb leadership of Head Coach Hester, the Raptors enjoyed the outstanding coaching and assistance of a tremendous staff, namely Jabo Burrow, Paul Derrick, Alex Trakas, Bryant Gunter, Daniel Garrett, Bob Kopecky, Andy Elrod, Zach Farkas, Joe Cardinal, and Scott Matlock; and

WHEREAS, those who shared their talents for the betterment of the Ravenwood High School team include Danny Borne, Athletic Director; Jane St. Clair, Athletic Secretary; Sean Dean, Character Coach; Seth Woodard and Tim Hoskins, Trainers; Dr. Ronald Derr, Team Physician; and Austin Pert, Alan Marshall, and Landon Tidwell, Team Managers; and

WHEREAS, this championship team enjoyed the outstanding support of the administration of Ravenwood High School, namely Principal Dr. Pam Vaden and assistant principals, Dr. Reggie Mason, Amy Maffei, Robin Dickerson, Bridget Gorokhovsky, and Lance Wilson; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of these exceptional athletes not only made possible a championship season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the football players of Ravenwood High School epitomize all that is good in today's student athlete, 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 the school's student body and united the entire community during their triumphant run through the 2015 season; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the players, coaching staff, and fans of the Ravenwood High School football team on a remarkable season and their State Championship victory. On becoming TSSAA Division I Class 6A State Football Champions, the Raptors have proven themselves to be exemplary and capable young men who are worthy of this General Assembly's accolades.

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