

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 800

By Mitchell

A RESOLUTION to honor Nick Saban on the occasion of his retirement from coaching.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to Nick Saban, arguably the greatest head coach in college football history and certainly one of the greatest coaches of all time in any sport; and

WHEREAS, Nick Saban is retiring from a legendary coaching career that includes six national championships (2009, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2017, and 2020) during his seventeen-year-tenure with the University of Alabama Crimson Tide; and

WHEREAS, there are many objective measures of Coach Saban's gridiron greatness, but there are two that speak volumes: his record-setting seven national championships (one with Louisiana State University (LSU) in 2003) and his singular status as the only coach to ever win national championships with two different major college football programs since the start of the Associated Press Poll in 1936; and

WHEREAS, Coach Saban began his illustrious career at the University of Toledo, where he led the Rockets to a Mid-American Conference championship before leaving to serve as defensive coordinator for Coach Bill Belichick's Cleveland Browns; and

WHEREAS, he later served five years as head coach of the Michigan State Spartan football team, departing in 2000 for LSU, where he captured his first national championship in his fourth season with Tigers; and

WHEREAS, after coaching in the NFL for two seasons, Coach Saban returned to the college game in 2006 with great force an effect as head coach of the Crimson Tide; and

WHEREAS, at Tuscaloosa, Nick Saban restored an iconic football powerhouse to national prominence and cemented his status as one of the greatest coaches and motivators ever; and

WHEREAS, he led the Tide to nine SEC championships, compiled a 16-7 record in bowl games, mentored four Heisman Trophy winners and forty-four first-round NFL draft picks, and won six national titles over a twelve-year span at the University of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, in the 2023 season, Coach Saban guided a young, inexperienced Alabama team to a 12-2 record; perhaps most prominent among these twelve victories was a miraculous last-second win against arch-rival Auburn in the Iron Bowl, a comeback performance that arguably secured the Tide's berth in the CFP Championship semifinals; and

WHEREAS, Nick Saban finishes his remarkable career with a collegiate coaching record of 292-71-1, including a 206-29 (.877) mark in Tuscaloosa, making him the fifth winningest football coach in history; and

WHEREAS, a strong believer in doing things the right way, Coach Saban has helped his players play up to and beyond their abilities, create more value for their futures, and become more successful in life due to their participation in college football; and

WHEREAS, this legacy is most worthy of our approbation; 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 Nick Saban on the occasion of his retirement from coaching college football at the University of Alabama, salute his seven national championships and other indelible achievements on the gridiron, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success and happiness 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 and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.