

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 929

By Bass

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Coaches Sharon Kennedy and Beth Hall and the Richland High School Cheerleaders upon winning the TSSAA State Cheer Championship in the Cheer Building Division.

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 of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Richland High School Cheerleading squad is renowned for its perennial nature as a bastion of extraordinary athletic facility in the world of competitive cheerleading; and

WHEREAS, the Richland High School cheerleaders achieved an unsurpassed level of success during the 2009 season, winning the TSSAA State Cheer Championship in the Cheer Building Division for the second year in a row; and

WHEREAS, during the TSSAA State Championship competition held at Murphy Center at Middle Tennessee State University on December 5, 2009, these remarkable cheerleaders awed the crowds with their strength and grace, while duly impressing the judges as they showcased their talents, which have been developed through many hours of strenuous practice; and

WHEREAS, since 2000, Richland High School has brought home four state championships, three state runners-up, and one third place; the team has also won numerous times at Universal Cheerleaders Association competitions in Gatlinburg, placing 21<sup>st</sup> in 2008 and fifteenth in 2009 at National Competition in Orlando, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of this amazing group have earned them Citizen of the Week honors from the *Pulaski Citizen*; their receipt of this honor is a singular achievement,

as the members of the Richland team are the only 2009 recipients that were not individuals from Giles County's past; and

WHEREAS, they are the second team from a Giles County school, the other being the Giles County High School football team, to receive an award in the two weeks leading up to the TSSAA State Championship; and

WHEREAS, Richland's championship would not have been possible without the astute leadership of mother and daughter coaching team Sharon Kennedy and Beth Hall, who have a combined twenty-four years of coaching experience and are members of the Tennessee Cheer Coaches Association and the American Cheer Coaches Association; and

WHEREAS, this very impressive cheerleading team enjoys the leadership and dedication of a tremendous team captain, senior Brittney Tarpley, and four stellar co-captains, juniors Jaycey Farrar, Gina Harwell, Kimmy Millikan, and Ashley Steele; and

WHEREAS, the captain and co-captains are certainly deserving of special praise, as this year's squad is comprised of relatively young cheerleaders; sophomore Savannah Shelton and freshmen Jacey Bomar, Ashley Boyd, Kayce Currin, Becca Darnell, Kendra Encarnacion, and McKenzie Jones have all performed to the highest standards to earn this title and merit the utmost respect; and

WHEREAS, in November 2009, the cheerleaders competed in the Middle Tennessee Cheer Classic at Blackman High School in Murfreesboro and placed first; squad members Darnell, Harwell, Steele, Currin, and Bomar also placed first in the Stunt-Off competition, and the squad would go on to compete in the Universal Cheerleaders Association competition in February; and

WHEREAS, consistently proving themselves academically, the Richland cheerleaders have received the highest academic award given by TSSAA, and several of them have received individual academic awards for a 3.5 GPA or higher; and

WHEREAS, the team is especially grateful for the support of school administrators Mr. Laxson, Mrs. Beard, and Mrs. Casey; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Richland High School cheerleading team epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while exhibiting the highest degree of character in all aspects of life; and

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

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the members of the Richland High School cheerleading team for their outstanding performance and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Coaches Sharon Kennedy and Beth Hall and the Richland High School Cheerleaders on their exceptional legacy, their individual and collective resolve, and their triumph as the TSSAA State Cheer Champions in the Cheer Building Division for the second year in a row.

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