

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1009

By Fincher

A RESOLUTION to designate April 16, 2010, as “Katherine Brown Family Appreciation Day” in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens and families who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy family is the family of Katherine Brown, whose influence, leadership, and endless support of athletics in the Upper Cumberland region has left a lasting and indelible mark on the area’s citizens, schools, and sports programs; and

WHEREAS, Katherine Brown’s father, Eddie “Jelly” Watson, was a legendary coach and sports figure who was instrumental in organizing the first sports programs offered at Cookeville High School in 1928, and later he helped establish and develop Little League baseball in Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, a gifted athlete while in college, Jelly Watson displayed his tremendous talent while playing football, basketball, and baseball for Tennessee Technological University (TTU); and

WHEREAS, after coaching the Cookeville High School football team from 1929 until 1932, Mr. Watson served as football coach, basketball coach, principal, and as a school administrator in Celina, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during his distinguished career, he also served with the utmost character and integrity as the Superintendent of Schools for Putnam County, earning the respect and admiration of school officials, teachers, parents, and students alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, he was renowned for his stalwart commitment to athletics in the Upper Cumberland region, and Cookeville High School even named their football stadium Eddie Watson Stadium in honor of the legendary coach; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished athlete as well, Katherine Watson Brown was a member of the basketball team and the cheerleading squad at Putnam County High school; and

WHEREAS, after attending TTU, she went on to open up a successful family sporting goods store in Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, with athletics playing a central role in her life, she was not only the daughter of legendary coach Jelly Watson and wife of talented coach and school administrator, Melvin Brown, but she was also the devoted mother and biggest fan of three sons, Watson, Mack, and Mel, all of whom excelled in sports; and

WHEREAS, an All-American football player at Cookeville High School, Watson Brown went on to star as quarterback at Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Vanderbilt University, Watson Brown began his own distinguished career in coaching football, serving as head coach of Austin Peay University, the University of Cincinnati, Rice University, Vanderbilt University, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and currently as the head coach at Tennessee Tech University; having legendary athletic bloodlines, his daughter, Jenny, and his son, Steven, both received athletic scholarships to play collegiate sports, and Steven currently works with his father, serving as an assistant coach at TTU; and

WHEREAS, also an All-American football player at Cookeville High School, Mack Brown was an exceptional football player on the collegiate level as well, playing receiver at Vanderbilt University and later at Florida State University; and

WHEREAS, also following in the family tradition of coaching football, during his illustrious career, Mack Brown has served as head coach of Appalachian State University, Tulane University, the University of North Carolina, and is currently the renowned head coach of the University of Texas, where he won the 2005 NCAA national championship; and

WHEREAS, passionate about athletics his entire life, Mel Brown played football and basketball at Cookeville High School, and also served as a manager for the Florida State University football team in college; and

WHEREAS, currently living in Cookeville, he is a devoted athletic booster and supporter of Cookeville High School and Tennessee Tech University; and

WHEREAS, the family of Katherine Brown is one of the most respected and esteemed families in the Upper Cumberland region, and this legislative body is especially proud to pause in its deliberations to recognize this fine family and their extraordinary efforts and dedication to athletics in this State; 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 hereby designate April 16, 2010, as "Katherine Brown Family Appreciation Day" in Tennessee and applaud their ongoing support of athletics in the Upper Cumberland region.

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