

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 67

By Harwell

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Don Meyer.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Don Meyer; and

WHEREAS, Don Meyer was a legendary basketball coach who lived with passion, faith, and perseverance, and he exhibited those same qualities when battling the cancer which took his life at the age of sixty-nine; and

WHEREAS, Coach Meyer coached his collegiate teams to 923 wins, earned two National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Coach of the Year Awards, coached three National Players of the Year and twenty-two All-Americans, and gained induction into ten different national halls of fame, but he will be remembered for much more than his accomplishments on the court; and

WHEREAS, he coached basketball at the collegiate level, either as an assistant coach or a head coach, for forty-two years. His first coaching assignment was as an assistant coach at Western State Colorado University, a post he held between 1968 and 1970, when he became assistant coach at the University of Utah; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Coach Meyer became the head coach of the men's basketball team at Hamline University, where he coached his teams to a 37-41 record over the next three seasons; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Don Meyer became the head coach at David Lipscomb College, which is now Lipscomb University. He led the Bisons to an incredible 665 wins, an NAIA national championship in 1986, and twelve national tournament appearances over the next twenty-four seasons; and

WHEREAS, Coach Meyer left Lipscomb University in 1999 and became the head coach of the Northern State University men's basketball team. In his first year there, he led the Wolves to a 13-14 season and then attained eight consecutive winning seasons and five Division II tournament appearances; and

WHEREAS, when health issues precipitated his departure from coaching in 2010, Coach Meyer retired as the all-time sixth-winningest men's college basketball coach, with 923 victories amassed during his thirty-eight years as a head coach. During his meteoric rise into the highest echelons of coaching, he reached 700 career wins faster than any other NAIA coach; and

WHEREAS, though he spent his career coaching at smaller schools that received little national attention, Don Meyer earned the respect and admiration of players and coaches throughout the country, largely due to his passion for the game, his peerless understanding of the finer points of basketball, and his sterling ability to teach young players how to succeed both on the court and in life; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with his collegiate teams, Coach Meyer also produced more than forty instructional videos, penned fifteen books, and ran highly successful basketball camps for young players. At one point, his basketball camp was the largest in the world and hosted more than 5,000 young players each summer; and

WHEREAS, Don Meyer's impact on the game and his players is perhaps best described by his peer and friend, Mike Krzyzewski, head coach of the Duke University men's basketball team, who said, "He was a truly amazing coach and teacher. Don shared his knowledge with coaches for decades and helped the game become better at every level. His players benefited from his teachings both on and off the court. His goal was for them to be successful as players and as men. He always accomplished his goal."; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Don Meyer was awarded the 2009 Jimmy V ESPY Award for Perseverance, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame John Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2010 John Wooden Keys to Life Award, and the 2012 Naismith Award for Outstanding Contribution to Basketball; and

WHEREAS, Coach Meyer was deeply devoted to his family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of forty-five years, Carmen, and was the proud father and father-in-law of Jerry, Brooke, and Brittney and their spouses; and

WHEREAS, Don Meyer will be sorely missed by his eight grandchildren and a host of friends, family, fellow coaches, and former players; and

WHEREAS, he leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; 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 honor the memory of Don Meyer, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Coach Meyer.

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