

Whereas this victory is a testament to the dedication of the players, coaches, staff, and fans of the University of Tennessee Volunteers baseball program; and

Whereas this remarkable team has made the entire State of Tennessee deeply proud: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and honors the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Volunteers baseball program for its incredible win in the 2024 College World Series and for winning the first baseball national title in program history;

(2) recognizes the achievements, teamwork, and Volunteer spirit of the coaches, players, and staff of the University of Tennessee baseball team;

(3) commends the fans and the entire State of Tennessee for their dedication and support; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Head Coach of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville baseball team, Tony Vitello;

(B) the Chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Donde Plowman; and

(C) the Director of Athletics of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Danny White.

SENATE RESOLUTION 787—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SOFTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES, THE EIGHTH NATIONAL TITLE IN PROGRAM HISTORY

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. MULLIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 787

Whereas the 2024 University of Oklahoma softball team (referred to in this preamble as the "Sooners"), under the direction of head coach Patty Gasso, swept rival University of Texas at Austin Longhorns in the Women's College World Series championship to win its record fourth consecutive National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as "NCAA") title;

Whereas the Sooners, over the 50-year history of the University of Oklahoma softball program, have won 8 national championships, including an unprecedented 6 in the past 8 seasons and 7 in the past 11 seasons, and have competed in 17 Women's College World Series tournaments, including 12 of the last 13;

Whereas the Sooners opened the state-of-the-art softball stadium Love's Field on March 1, 2024 and drew an NCAA single season record of 108,156 fans for an average crowd size of 4,326 per game;

Whereas a Nation-high 5 Sooners players were named 2024 National Fastpitch Coaches Association (referred to in this preamble as "NFCA") All-Americans, including Alyssa Brito and Tiare Jennings, who received first-team honors;

Whereas the Sooners won their ninth conference tournament by winning the 2024 Big 12 Softball Championship in Oklahoma City, defeating rival University of Texas at Austin Longhorns in the title game;

Whereas Head Coach Gasso earned her 1,500th NCAA Division I win and became the first Big 12 coach in any sport, men's or women's, to record 400 conference victories;

Whereas the Sooners placed 9 student-athletes on the 2024 All-Big 12 teams, including a league-high 5 on the first team;

Whereas Oklahoma student-athletes received numerous honors, including—

(1) Kinzie Hansen, who was named 2024 Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year;

(2) Ella Parker, who was recognized as a top 3 finalist for the 2024 Tucci/NFCA Division I Freshman of the Year;

(3) Alyssa Brito, who was named College Sports Communicators Academic All-America Team Member of the Year; and

(4) 5 Sooners, more than any other team, who were among the 26 finalists for the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award; and

Whereas the University of Oklahoma 2024 senior class of softball players closed its career with the most wins in a 4-year stretch in NCAA softball history, recording 235 victories to just 15 losses, including 73 victories to 7 losses in Big 12 Conference play and 41 victories to 4 losses in the NCAA tournament; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses profound appreciation to Head Coach Patty Gasso and the 2024 University of Oklahoma softball team for the excitement and pride they bring to the University of Oklahoma, the State of Oklahoma, and to Sooners everywhere; and

(2) expresses profound appreciation for the exemplary manner in which the 2024 University of Oklahoma softball team represents the University of Oklahoma and its tradition of excellence.

SENATE RESOLUTION 788—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CARROLL COUNTY WABASH & ERIE CANAL, INC

Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 788

Whereas, following the success of the Erie Canal in the State of New York, the leaders of the State of Indiana had a dream of digging a statewide network of canals;

Whereas, in 1836, the General Assembly of the State of Indiana passed "An Act to provide for a general system of Internal Improvements"(commonly known as "the Internal Improvements Act of 1836" or the "Indiana Mammoth Internal Improvement Act"), which appropriated millions of dollars for canal building and other improvements that launched the State of Indiana into the Canal Era;

Whereas only 2 canal lines were successfully completed in the State of Indiana, including—

(1) the 101-mile Whitewater Canal from Hagerstown, Indiana, to Cincinnati, Ohio; and

(2) the 468-mile Wabash & Erie Canal from Toledo, Ohio, to Evansville, Indiana, on the Ohio River;

Whereas the Wabash & Erie Canal economically and culturally connected the State of Indiana to the rest of the United States through the Erie Canal and other canal networks;

Whereas, at 468 miles in length, the Wabash & Erie Canal was the largest fabricated structure in the United States when it was completed in 1853 and, as of 2024, is the second-longest canal in the world;

Whereas, to appreciate the impact that the Wabash & Erie Canal had on the population of the State of Indiana, consider that, when the Wabash & Erie Canal began operations, the State of Indiana had a population of 350,000, and by 1840, it had a population of 988,000;

Whereas, in 1835, the counties in the State of Indiana that bordered the Wabash & Erie

Canal boasted 12,000 inhabitants and, by 1850, the number of inhabitants was 150,000;

Whereas, in the 3 years following the opening of the Wabash & Erie Canal, 5 new counties were created along the route of the Wabash & Erie Canal from Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Huntington, Indiana;

Whereas, in the 1870s, the Wabash & Erie Canal closed due to the high cost of maintenance and low income amidst competition from railroads;

Whereas, after the Wabash & Erie Canal closed, the canal section in Delphi, Indiana, was left to decay, becoming a festering public hazard and eyesore;

Whereas, in February 1971, the very first meeting of the dozen people concerned with forming a Canal history group, later known as Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., was held in Carroll County, Indiana;

Whereas, in 1974, the Internal Revenue Service granted nonprofit status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc.;

Whereas Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., has invested thousands of hours to repair the Wabash & Erie Canal and surrounding areas to represent its former glory and to educate the public of its history;

Whereas, in 2003, the Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center opened, and, thanks to volunteer labor, community donations, and grant funding, offers an interactive museum, a reception hall for community events, and a research archive of canal history;

Whereas Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., has developed and maintained miles of trails along historic sites of Delphi, Indiana, for public enjoyment and recreation;

Whereas the volunteers of Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., restored and relocated several historic bridges to span the Wabash & Erie Canal, including the wrought iron 1874 Paint Creek Bridge;

Whereas, since 2009, Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., has offered public canal boat tours aboard a 54-foot replica canal boat named, "the Delphi";

Whereas the volunteers of Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., built an open-air 1850s canal-era village by relocating and restoring historic structures from around the State of Indiana; and

Whereas, besides 1 full-time executive director and limited part-time staff, the rest of Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., and its activities and programs are staffed by local volunteers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the Wabash & Erie Canal as a historic landmark that preserves the story of the canal systems of the United States and their importance to early settlers for future generations;

(2) recognizes the prominent role that the Wabash & Erie Canal, the second-largest canal in the world as of 2024, had in the growth and expansion of the United States, especially in the Midwest and in the State of Indiana;

(3) recognizes Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., for its extensive community efforts to preserve the Wabash & Erie Canal while offering educational and recreational services to the public; and

(4) commemorates the 50th anniversary of Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., that was founded to preserve canal history and make it possible for visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of the last remaining navigable section of the Wabash & Erie Canal in the State of Indiana.

SENATE RESOLUTION 789—COM-MENDING THE MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS FOR WINNING THE 2024 NCAA DIVISION II BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 789

Whereas, on March 29, 2024, the Minnesota State University, Mankato women's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the "women's basketball team") won the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the "NCAA") Division II women's basketball national championship game against the Texas Woman's University Pioneers by a score of 89 to 73;

Whereas the women's basketball team, the number 5 seed in the tournament, claimed its first national championship since 2009, when the program won its only other national title;

Whereas sophomore Natalie Bremer, from Lake City, Minnesota—

(1) led the offense of the women's basketball team with 27 points, hitting 9 of 17 shots from the field, 3 of 4 shots from beyond the arc, and 6 of 6 shots at the free throw line;

(2) was named the NCAA Elite Eight Most Outstanding Player with an average of 23.3 points, 5.6 rebounds, and 3.6 steals per game, shooting 50.9 percent from the field; and

(3) became the 26th member of the Minnesota State 1,000 Point Club by scoring 29 points in the national semifinal game against California State University San Marcos;

Whereas senior Joey Batt, from New Ulm, Minnesota—

(1) was honored as an NCAA Central Region Tournament Most Valuable Player, with an average of 18.3 points, 4 assists, and 3 steals per game;

(2) was named to the NCAA Elite Eight team after averaging 14.6 points, 4.6 assists, and 3 steals per game at the NCAA Elite Eight;

(3) led the women's basketball team in scoring, averaging 16 points per game and shooting 44.5 percent from the field and 36 percent from 3-point range;

(4) led the women's basketball team in steals with 117 steals;

(5) finished second on the women's basketball team in assists with 104 assists;

(6) was named a Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-American;

(7) was named to the Division II Conference Commissioners Association All-American Third Team; and

(8) was named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Defensive Player of the Year;

Whereas Head Coach Emilee Thiesse—

(1) led the women's basketball team to an overall record of 32 wins and only 5 losses in the 2023–2024 season;

(2) finished the 2023–2024 season on an 11-game winning streak; and

(3) was named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Coach of the Year;

Whereas the NCAA Division II women's basketball national runner-up, Texas Woman's University, finished the 2023–2024 season with 34 wins and only 5 losses;

Whereas, on March 30, 2024, the Minnesota State University, Mankato men's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the "men's basketball team") won the 2024

NCAA Division II men's basketball national championship game against Nova Southeastern University by a score of 88 to 85;

Whereas junior guard Kyreese Willingham hit a game-winning 3-point shot from the corner with 0.8 seconds on the clock off of a pass from his brother, senior guard Malik Willingham;

Whereas senior forward Dylan Peeters—

(1) led the men's basketball team with 19 points; and

(2) made 9 of 10 shots from the field;

Whereas Malik Willingham, from Waseca, Minnesota—

(1) was named the NCAA Elite Eight Most Outstanding Player;

(2) averaged 17.3 points, 5.7 rebounds, and 5 assists per game in the tournament; and

(3) finished his career as the third leading scorer in Minnesota State University history;

Whereas Kyreese Willingham, from Waseca, Minnesota—

(1) was named the Most Valuable Player of the NCAA Central Region Tournament, posting 17 points and 6.7 rebounds per game while shooting 61.3 percent from the field; and

(2) was named to the NCAA Elite Eight All-Tournament Team, recording 14 points and 4 rebounds per game;

Whereas, in his 23rd season as head coach, Coach Matt Margenthaler—

(1) guided the men's basketball team to a season of 35 wins and 2 losses;

(2) guided the men's basketball team to their first NCAA Division II Championship in program history;

(3) was named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Coach of the Year; and

(4) was named the National Association of Basketball Coaches Division II Coach of the Year;

Whereas the men's basketball team finished the 2023–2024 season ranked second in attendance in Division II of the NCAA; and

Whereas the NCAA Division II men's basketball national runner-up, Nova Southeastern University, finished with a record of 32 wins and 3 losses 1 year after winning the Division II Men's Basketball National Championship:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Minnesota State University, Mankato women's basketball team for its victory in the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II women's basketball national championship game;

(2) recognizes the dedication, perseverance, togetherness, and hard work of the players, coaches, students, alumni, fans, administration, and support staff that directly contributed to the victory of the Minnesota State University women's basketball team in the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II women's basketball national championship game;

(3) commends Texas Women's University on a great season as the Division II women's basketball national runner-up;

(4) commends the Minnesota State University, Mankato men's basketball team for its victory in the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II men's basketball national championship game;

(5) recognizes the dedication, perseverance, togetherness, and hard work of the players, coaches, students, alumni, fans, administration, and support staff that directly contributed to the victory of the Minnesota State University men's basketball team in the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II men's basketball national championship game; and

(6) commends Nova Southeastern University on a great season as the Division II men's basketball national runner-up.

SENATE RESOLUTION 790—COM-MENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 790

Whereas, on Monday, April 8, 2024, the University of Connecticut's men's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the "UConn Huskies") won the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the "NCAA") Men's Basketball Championship with a 75–60 win over the Purdue University Boilermakers;

Whereas this is the UConn Huskies' sixth national championship, continuing the team's undefeated streak in national championship games;

Whereas this is the UConn Huskies' second consecutive national championship, becoming only the eighth NCAA Division I men's basketball team to accomplish this feat;

Whereas the UConn Huskies earned all 6 national titles since 1999, a feat that no other college team has surpassed during that time;

Whereas Tristen Newton was named the Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA tournament, averaging 14.5 points per game;

Whereas the UConn Huskies won every NCAA tournament game by 14 points or more for a second straight year and set the record this year for the largest margin of victory over its 6-game run with 140 combined points; and

Whereas, because the University of Connecticut is also home to the most successful NCAA Division I women's basketball program, having won a record 11 national championships and appearing in their twenty-third Final Four this year, Storrs, Connecticut, is the Basketball Capital of the World: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the University of Connecticut men's basketball team for winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's Basketball Championship;

(2) congratulates the fans, students, and faculty of the University of Connecticut; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of the University of Connecticut, Radenka Maric; and

(B) the Head Coach of the University of Connecticut men's basketball team, Dan Hurley.

SENATE RESOLUTION 791—DESIGNATING AUGUST 1, 2024, AS "GOLD STAR CHILDREN'S DAY"

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 791

Whereas the recognition of Gold Star Families in the United States dates back to World War I, when the families of fallen members of the Armed Forces displayed a service flag with a gold star in the window of their homes;

Whereas, in 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law legislation declaring Gold Star Mother's Day, now known as