
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 409 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY KITCHEN, BOSCOLA, SCHWANK, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA,
WILLIAMS, SABATINA, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, TEPLITZ, LEACH,
BLAKE, WILEY, FONTANA, GREENLEAF AND ARGALL, JUNE 30, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 30, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and mourning the death of Pat Summitt, the
2 coach with the most wins in Division I history, a monumental
3 figure who was at the forefront of ascending women's
4 athletics into the national spotlight and an advocate for
5 Alzheimer's disease research.

6 WHEREAS, Pat Summitt's winning ways on and off the court have
7 inspired countless female and male athletes and helped transform
8 women's college basketball from a sport ignored by the National
9 Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) into one that draws
10 national television audiences; and

11 WHEREAS, Sadly, Pat Summitt passed away Tuesday, June 28,
12 2016, at 64 years of age, after a battle with early onset
13 Alzheimer's disease; and

14 WHEREAS, Born Patricia Sue Head on June 14, 1952, in
15 Clarksville, Tennessee, as the daughter of a farmer, she was
16 instilled with the values of hard work and toughness from a
17 young age; and

18 WHEREAS, Ms. Summitt became the head coach at the University
19 of Tennessee flagship campus in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1974

1 when she was 22, despite the NCAA not sponsoring women's
2 basketball until 1982; and

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Summitt's values of hard work proved useful as
4 she was only paid \$250 a month to coach the team, which included
5 conducting doughnut sales to help pay for uniforms, washing the
6 uniforms herself, driving the team van to games and even
7 sleeping with the team on mats in an opponent's gym because the
8 team could not afford hotel rooms; and

9 WHEREAS, Ms. Summitt's will to win and her positive influence
10 on the lives of many young women led her to break glass ceilings
11 in coaching for 38 seasons, during which her teams captured
12 eight national championships and won 1,098 games; and

13 WHEREAS, By coaching her teams to victory 1,098 times, she
14 became the coach with the most wins in Division I history which
15 helped her achieve pay parity with a salary matching the
16 salaries of top men's basketball college coaches; and

17 WHEREAS, On April 22, 2011, she courageously announced that
18 she had early onset Alzheimer's disease at the age of 59, but
19 her toughness emboldened her to persevere; and

20 WHEREAS, She started the Pat Summitt Foundation to support
21 research for Alzheimer's disease; and

22 WHEREAS, The foundation is partnering with the University of
23 Tennessee Medical Center to create the Pat Summitt Alzheimer's
24 Clinic; and

25 WHEREAS, Pat Summitt's accomplishments on and off the court
26 were recognized outside the realm of sports when she was awarded
27 the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama in
28 2012; and

29 WHEREAS, Ms. Summitt's accomplishments broke every glass
30 ceiling that was in place for women involved in athletics at the

1 time and she used her toughness and her work ethic to become a
2 monumental figure, not just in women's sports, but in athletics
3 in general; and

4 WHEREAS, Her courageous work in advocating for Alzheimer's
5 disease research is paramount to learning more about the
6 debilitating disease; and

7 WHEREAS, She once said "make hard work your passion," and she
8 lived that statement; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the life and mourn the death
10 of Pat Summitt, the coach with the most wins in Division I
11 history, a monumental figure who was at the forefront of
12 ascending women's athletics into the national spotlight and an
13 advocate for Alzheimer's disease research.