



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, This year, Coach Harry Statham entered his 39th  
3 year as the men's basketball coach and athletic director at his  
4 alma mater, McKendree College; and

5 WHEREAS, Last year, the Bearcat men's basketball team had  
6 another 20-win season, with a record of 24 wins and 10 losses,  
7 and advanced to the NAIA Division I Men's Basketball National  
8 Championship for the fifth consecutive year; and

9 WHEREAS, Coach Statham began this season as the active wins  
10 leader at the four-year college level; during his first 38  
11 years, he amassed 871 victories, placing him third on the  
12 all-time list; only Dean Smith with 879 wins and Adolph Rupp  
13 with 876 wins were ahead of Statham; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2002-03, Coach Statham led the Bearcats to  
15 perhaps the most memorable season in school history; McKendree  
16 compiled a record of 34 wins and 4 losses, with no losses in  
17 American Midwest Conference (AMC) play for the first time; at  
18 the NAIA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship,  
19 McKendree posted three victories on its way to a berth in the  
20 NAIA Fab Four for the first time in team history; and

21 WHEREAS, On November 15, 2003, in Lebanon, by guiding the  
22 Bearcats to an 88-87 victory against Mountain State University,  
23 Coach Statham became the NAIA's all-time leader in career  
24 victories with 817 wins; and

25 WHEREAS, In addition to the on-the-court milestones, Coach  
26 Statham was recognized as the 2001-02 NAIA Men's Basketball  
27 Coach of the Year; he is also an 11-time recipient of the  
28 NAIA-Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Men's Basketball  
29 Coach of the Year; in 1987 he was inducted into the IBCA-NAIA  
30 Hall of Fame, and in 1998, he was inducted into the NAIA Hall

1 of Fame; and

2 WHEREAS, Under Coach Statham's leadership, the Bearcats  
3 have appeared in post-season play 33 times in 38 years;  
4 McKendree has reached the NAIA Division I Men's Basketball  
5 National Championship 10 times over the last 16 years; in each  
6 of the last 15 seasons, McKendree has recorded at least 20  
7 wins; the Bearcats have averaged 27 wins a year in that span;  
8 McKendree ranks sixth among all NAIA schools in winning  
9 percentage over the last decade and is in the top 15 over the  
10 last five seasons; in all, McKendree has notched 20 or more  
11 wins 29 times under his tutelage; and

12 WHEREAS, Coach Statham began his coaching career while an  
13 undergraduate at McKendree College, by guiding the boy's  
14 basketball team at O'Fallon Junior High School while taking  
15 college courses at night; he was a graduate assistant for the  
16 men's basketball and track teams at the University of Illinois  
17 at Champaign while completing requirements for a master's of  
18 science degree in physical education; he coached at the high  
19 school level prior to returning to McKendree College, where he  
20 also served as the Bearcats' baseball coach for two seasons;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, On Wednesday, December 1, 2004, in a match with  
23 Maryville University, Coach Statham achieved his 880th win,  
24 moving him into first place on the all-time victories list  
25 among coaches at a four-year college or university; therefore,  
26 be it

27 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
28 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
29 congratulate Coach Harry Statham on his 880th win as head  
30 basketball coach at McKendree College, making him the  
31 winningest basketball coach at a four-year college or  
32 university; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to Coach Statham as a token of our respect and esteem  
3 and with best wishes for his continued success.