



State of Tennessee

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 432

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Blake Geoffrion on his outstanding first NHL season with the Nashville Predators.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those Tennesseans who have excelled as professional athletes; and

WHEREAS, during the 2011 season, Blake Geoffrion of the Nashville Predators gained recognition as the first Tennessean to ever play in the National Hockey League (NHL); and

WHEREAS, drafted 56th overall by the Predators in the second round of the 2006 NHL draft, Blake Geoffrion also distinguished himself as the first fourth-generation player in NHL history; and

WHEREAS, Blake's father, Danny Geoffrion, played three seasons in the NHL and one season in the World Hockey Association; his grandfather, the late Bernie "Boom Boom" Geoffrion, perfected the slap shot en route to scoring 393 career goals and winning six Stanley Cups with the Montreal Canadiens; and his great-grandfather, the late Howie Morenz, was a three-time NHL Most Valuable Player who won three Stanley Cups with the Canadiens; both Bernie Geoffrion and Howie Morenz have been inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, with this royal hockey lineage, it is no surprise that Blake Geoffrion has demonstrated exceptional ability and rare intelligence on the ice, whether playing in the Nashville Youth Hockey League or the NHL, or any of his stops in between, including the University of Wisconsin Badgers and the Milwaukee Admirals; and

WHEREAS, raised in Brentwood, Tennessee, Blake led all Nashville rookies with six goals in only twenty games with the Predators in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Blake scored his first NHL goal on March 1, 2011, at Edmonton in only his third NHL game; he recorded the first hat trick of his career on March 20, 2011, at Buffalo in only his eleventh NHL game; and in all, he scored six goals in his first 100 minutes of NHL playing time; and

WHEREAS, as a senior in college, Blake led the University of Wisconsin Badgers to the NCAA National Championship Game in 2010, and received the 30th annual Hobey Baker Memorial Award as college hockey's most outstanding player, the first University of Wisconsin (UW) player to win this prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, during that same season, he led the Nation in power-play goals (15) and ranked third in the NCAA in goals (28); he also ranked second in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) in points (50); and

WHEREAS, Blake was named MVP of the NCAA West Regional after posting five points in a pair of victories, helping Wisconsin advance to the 2010 Frozen Four and eventually the Championship Game; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being honored as 2010 USA Hockey College Player of the Year, Blake was named 2009-2010 UW Male Athlete of the Year, garnered 2010 Player of the Year Honors from USCHO.com and InsideCollegeHockey.com, and was named a 2010 First Team West All-American and a 2010 First Team WCHA All-Star; and

WHEREAS, a veteran of international hockey, Blake represented the United States at the 2008 World Junior Championships; captured a bronze medal with Team USA at the 2007 World Junior Championships in Sweden; was a member of the U.S. U-18 team that captured the gold medal at the 2006 (U-18) World Championships; and helped Team USA to a first-place finish at the 2005 Four Nations Cup in Rochester, New York; and

WHEREAS, although he has already accomplished a great deal in hockey at a young age, it is safe to say that the best is yet to come from Blake Geoffrion, as he prepares for his second NHL campaign with the Nashville Predators after playing all twelve games in the 2011 NHL Playoffs, in

which the Predators beat Anaheim to advance to the second round for the first time in franchise history; and

WHEREAS, although he is not a natural scorer like his Hall of Fame ancestors, there can be no doubt that Blake Geoffrion is a hockey player with not only great talent, but also great determination and grit, and we are certain that he will develop his own personality as a player, parking himself in front of the net in search of the perfect "greasy" goal as a Nashville Predator for many more seasons to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Tennessean Blake Geoffrion on his legion of accomplishments in hockey at all levels, from youth leagues to international play, from the collegiate ranks to the National Hockey League. We congratulate Blake upon the completion of his first outstanding NHL season with the Nashville Predators, and wish him much continued success as he leads Nashville to its first Stanley Cup Championship next season.

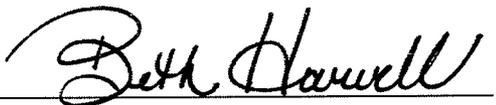
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: May 20, 2011



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 2nd day of June 2011



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR