



# State of Tennessee

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 92

By McNally, Henry

A RESOLUTION recognizing John Baer for his many contributions to the sport of lacrosse.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those individuals who dedicate themselves to providing sport and recreational opportunities to the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, John Baer is one such intrepid individual who has, throughout the majority of his life, championed the sport of lacrosse, rendering sterling service as a player, a coach, a league founder, and a cultivator of the widespread appreciation of the sport throughout Tennessee and the Southeast; and

WHEREAS, a native of Massapequa, New York, Mr. Baer developed an early love for the sport of lacrosse, a love which has not waned with the passage of time. In his youth, he was recognized as an all-star goalie and, later, as a player at the State University of New York, Brockport, John Baer was chosen as a collegiate All-American; and

WHEREAS, following his collegiate lacrosse career, John Baer continued playing, gaining recognition as a post-collegiate league Most Valuable Player and earning a spot on the Australian World Team; and

WHEREAS, following his impressive career as a player, Mr. Baer embarked upon what would become an incredibly successful career as a coach, promoter, and leader in the world of amateur lacrosse; and

WHEREAS, he first served as an assistant coach of the lacrosse team at Florida International University in 1977, the same year he won the Most Valuable Player Award from the Florida Lacrosse League. In 1981, he became the head coach of the Nedland Subiaco Under-16 team in Perth, Australia, and was later selected to play on the 1982 Australian National Team; and

WHEREAS, between 1983 and 1988, John Baer coached in Florida high school leagues and, in 1990, he became the coach of the Montgomery Bell Academy (MBA) lacrosse team; and

WHEREAS, John Baer founded the Tennessee Scholastic Lacrosse League (TSL), the first lacrosse league sanctioned by the National Interscholastic Lacrosse Association (NILA), the sanctioning body of high school lacrosse in America in Tennessee in 1990, the same year his MBA team captured the first TSL Championship; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baer also founded the Brentwood lacrosse program in 1990; and

WHEREAS, in seeking a greater berth for Tennessee lacrosse, John Baer formed the Tennessee Scholastic Lacrosse Association (TSLA) in 1992, inviting teams that wished to participate as members of the Mid-American Lacrosse Conference (MALC), which he also founded, including teams from Indiana, Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio, and Illinois; and

WHEREAS, his MBA teams won the Tennessee TSLA State Championships in 1992, 1993, and 1994, and captured the MALC Championships in 1992 and 1993. He served as the head coach of the MBA team through the 1997 season; and

WHEREAS, his 1993 MBA team gained national recognition for their prowess on the field of play. The team finished the season undefeated, racking up seventeen wins and defeating five other state champions along the way. The squad was ranked as the twenty-second strongest in the country by *Lacrosse Magazine*; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his sterling work with MBA, John Baer committed a great deal of time and energy towards the cultivation of an appreciation of the sport of lacrosse within the community. In 1990, he founded the Nashville Lacrosse Summer League, a league which later became a breeding ground for several other programs in the mid-state area, and a model for leagues throughout Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baer also founded the Nashville LC in 1990. This youth team would lead to the creation of programs at Hillsboro High School and a number of other area schools. John Baer was also personally responsible for the founding of lacrosse programs at Franklin High School, the University School of Nashville, and the Webb School, among a number of others; and

WHEREAS, as the coach of the women's team at Vanderbilt University in 1997, John Baer led the team to a 10-5 record and a sixteenth-place ranking; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, John Baer was a two-time finalist for the NILA National Man of the Year Award, led his teams to four State Championships and two MALC Championships, produced seven high school All-Americans, and finished with an impressive 92-12 win-loss record, a staggeringly good career record; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baer has also served as the coach of the George Washington University men's club team; the assistant coach at Hayfield High School in Alexandria, Virginia; the head coach of the team at West Potomac High School in Alexandria; and the founder of the Coastal Empire Lacrosse Club; and

WHEREAS, he has found success off the lacrosse field too. His professional career has centered around the production and creation of many music, film, television, and visual projects, many of which have been used by a number of large television networks and business conglomerates; and

WHEREAS, John Baer is responsible for the growth and success of the sport of lacrosse in the State of Tennessee, and it is his guidance, support, knowledge, and love of lacrosse which have ensured the sport's popularity and the success of many of its leagues, and it is wholly fitting that this body formally recognize his many contributions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby recognize John Baer for his countless contributions to the growth of the sport of lacrosse in Tennessee, applaud his successful playing and coaching careers, and commend his unwavering dedication to the sport, a dedication which has permeated his role as teacher, coach, leader, and mentor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our best wishes to Mr. Baer for his every future success and happiness.

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

**ADOPTED: April 4, 2012**

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**RON RAMSEY**  
**SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**