

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 702

Whereas, Gary Pinkel was born in Akron, Ohio; and

Whereas, he played football at Kent State University, achieving the honor of being named team captain and being named as a two-time, all-conference tight end; and

Whereas, after beginning his head coaching career at Toledo University in 1991, he won 65.9 percent of the games he coached and achieved a record of 73-37-3, the most wins in school history; and

Whereas, his nine winning seasons out of ten seasons coached at Toledo University included one conference championship, three division titles, and a Vegas Bowl win, and he was twice named Coach of the Year of the Mid-American Conference; and

Whereas, in 2001, he became the head coach at the University of Missouri, which had fielded a football program with only two winning seasons in the previous seventeen years and only one ten-win season in school history; and

Whereas, in the next fifteen years with him as the head coach, the University of Missouri football team achieved ten winning seasons, five ten-win seasons, five conference division titles, two Southeastern Conference championship game appearances, ten bowl appearances, six bowl victories, five final top-20 national rankings, and the university's first No. 1 ranking since 1960; and

Whereas, during those fifteen successful years, he was named the National Coach of the Year in 2007, the Big 12 Conference coach of the year in 2007, and the Southeastern Conference coach of the year in 2014; and

Whereas, his 2007 team became one of his greatest with a Big 12 North division title and record of 12-2 while

scoring an average of 40 points per game. The team ruined the undefeated record of the border rival Kansas Jayhawks, defeating them with a 36-28 win and claiming the national No. 1 ranking. The 2007 team finished the season with a 38-17 victory over Arkansas in the Cotton Bowl and a national No. 4 ranking; and

Whereas, after the university moved to the Southeastern Conference, his 2013 team surprised college football experts by finishing the season as Southeastern Conference East division champions and Cotton Bowl champions over Oklahoma State with another 12-2 record and a national No. 5 ranking; and

Whereas, in 2014, he led his team in a return to the Southeastern Conference championship and finished the season with an 11-3 record and a national No. 14 ranking by defeating Minnesota in the Buffalo Wild Wings Citrus Bowl; and

Whereas, he ended his college football coaching career with his retirement in 2015 as the third-winningest active college football coach; and

Whereas, during his tenure as head coach, he led the University of Missouri football team to a 118-73 record; and

Whereas, he joined coach Bear Bryant and coach Steve Spurrier as one of only three coaches in college football history to hold the most wins for two collegiate football programs; and

Whereas, he became the first coach in NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision history to lead a team to the conference championship game in three different conferences; and

Whereas, seventy-nine of his players were recognized as first team all-conference players, ten were recognized as

First Team All-Americans, three were recognized as Academic All-Americans, three were recognized as National Football Foundation National Scholar-Athletes, and thirty-nine were drafted by National Football League teams; and

Whereas, players on his University of Missouri football teams excelled in the classroom by leading the conference in academic progress rate numerous times and with ninety-five percent of his senior players graduating; and

Whereas, he has been inducted into the Kenmore High School Hall of Fame, the Kent State Athletics Hall of Fame, the Toledo Athletics Hall of Fame, the Mid-American Conference Hall of Fame, the St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame, and the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame; and

Whereas, on January 10, 2022, the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame announced that Gary Pinkel is a member of the 2022 College Football Hall of Fame Class:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundred First General Assembly, Second Regular Session, hereby congratulate Gary Pinkel on his myriad achievements in college football, recognize him as the winningest coach in Missouri football history, and recognize that his leadership and success put Missouri on the college football map and gave the state's flagship university hope and high expectations; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Coach Gary Pinkel, the Kenmore High School Hall of Fame, the Kent State Athletics Hall of Fame, the Toledo Athletics Hall of Fame, the Mid-American Conference Hall of Fame, the St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame, the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, the National Football

Foundation & College Football Hall of Fame, and the president of the University of Missouri.