

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1830

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Ken Darting on his record and retirement as the head boys basketball coach at Highland Park High School in Topeka and for his positive contribution to the entire Highland Park community.

WHEREAS, Ken Darting started teaching at Highland Park High School in 1995 and prior to the 2001-2002 season, was named head boys basketball coach by the school's principal, Dale Cushinberry; and

WHEREAS, Coach Darting, known as "Coach D" to Highland Park players, parents and fans, led the Scots to nine Centennial League championships, four with undefeated seasons and a league win-loss record of 139-23 (.858 winning percentage); 14 invitational tournament championships, including six in the Topeka Invitational Tournament; and 10 Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) sub-state championships; and

WHEREAS, Coach D also led the Scots to four KSHSAA Class 5A state basketball championships, eight state championship games in Class 5A and 4A and three nationally ranked teams.

He has posted a win-loss record at Highland Park of 259-53 (.830 winning percentage) and a total record of 505-222 (.695 winning percentage) as a high school and college head coach; and

WHEREAS, The Highland Park senior class of 2009 had an amazing record of 94-6 over four years, with a state runner-up finish in 2006 and three consecutive state championships in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The 2007 team featuring first team All-Staters and future NCAA Division I players Kyle Weems and Lamont Austin went 25-0, becoming only the second boys team to go undefeated in Topeka city high school basketball history; and

WHEREAS, Under Coach D's leadership, 21 players have been named first team All-City, including seven who were named City Player of the Year; 23 players named first team All-Centennial League, including five who were named League Player of the Year; 17 players named first team Class 5A; six players named first team All-State; 56 players offered college basketball scholarships, including 5 players who were NCAA Division I signees; and four players who were McDonald's All-American nominees; and

WHEREAS, Coach D has been named City Coach of the Year and Centennial League Coach of the Year nine times; Class 5A Coach of the Year four times; and State All Class Coach of the Year three times. Coach D has been a positive role model for his players and his teams have always been known for their unselfish teamwork, which is the result of their unwavering commitment to the team motto "We Not Me," and to their relentless, stifling man-to-man defense; and

WHEREAS, Coach D announced this past September that the 2013-2014 basketball season was to be his last as the head boys basketball coach at Highland Park High School and on January 10, 2014, in recognition of Coach D's final year as head coach, the Highland Park community gathered in the Scots' gymnasium to officially name the gym and floor the Ken Darting Gym and Ken Darting Court in a ceremony prior to the Scots' Centennial League game against Junction City; and

WHEREAS, Ken and Karen Darting have been married for 42 years. Karen works at Highland Park as a school psychologist and is known by her nickname "Mama D" for the invaluable role she has played over the years as team psychologist, photographer, cook, tutor and mentor. The Dartings have two children: Krista, who lives in Nashville, Tennessee and Kerry, who lives in Topeka: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we commend and congratulate Ken Darting on his record and retirement as the head boys basketball coach at Highland Park High School and for his positive contribution to the entire Highland Park community; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we congratulate him on the naming of the school's gym and floor as the Ken Darting Gym and Ken Darting Court; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall provide five enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Hensley.

Senate Resolution No. 1830 was sponsored by Senators Hensley, Kelly and V. Schmidt.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*