

RESOLUTION NO. RS2019-1689

A resolution recognizing Belmont University basketball coach Rick Byrd upon the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, following a season of historic milestones, legendary Belmont University basketball coach and Knoxville-native Rick Byrd announced his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Byrd coached the Belmont men's basketball for more than three decades (33 seasons in total), starting in 1986 when Belmont was not yet a university and the college was then primarily known for its music business program; and

WHEREAS, the men's basketball team initially played in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, an association for small colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, Byrd built the Belmont Bruins into a perennial powerhouse, leading the team to 805 victories (ranking 12th all-time among Division I coaches), eight NCAA Tournament appearances, and the Bruin's first-ever NCAA Tournament win this season; and

WHEREAS, Belmont's basketball team is one of only nine programs in Division I college basketball to win 19 or more games in each of the last 14 seasons, and over that span, it won 17 regular-season or conference tournament titles; and

WHEREAS, since 2001, Belmont has led the nation in Academic All-American selections and is one of only three programs to rank among the nation's best every year since inception of the Academic Progress Rate (APR); and

WHEREAS, under Byrd's leadership, Belmont has posted a team grade-point average of 3.0 or higher 18 consecutive years and claimed the "Academic National Championship" on *InsiderHigherEd.com* each of its last three NCAA Tournament appearances (2013, 2015, 2019); and

WHEREAS, Byrd was inducted into the Belmont Hall of Fame in 1996, the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame in 2012, and the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Byrd is also a recipient of the 2012 NCAA Bob Frederick award for his lifelong commitment to sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play; and

WHEREAS, this year, Byrd was selected as a candidate for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame's 2019 class; and

WHEREAS, in the basketball community, Rick Byrd is well-known for his sweater vest attire on game days; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council recognizes and congratulates head coach Rick Byrd upon his retirement and commends him for his integrity and leadership throughout his career and wishes a happy retirement and continued success in his future endeavors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as recognizing Belmont University basketball coach Rick Byrd upon the occasion of his retirement.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

Burkley Allen
Member of Council