

By: Senators M. Johnson, F. Love, J. Scott, Caldwell

## SENATE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE COACH VAN COMPTON ON HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CHAMPIONSHIPS, AND IMPACT THROUGHOUT HER FIFTY-ONE-YEAR COACHING CAREER; TO CONGRATULATE HER ON HER RETIREMENT AFTER THIRTY-EIGHT (38) SEASONS AS THE HEAD COACH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM; AND TO CONGRATULATE HER FOR HER INDUCTION INTO THE ARKANSAS SPORTS HALL OF FAME.

### Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE COACH VAN COMPTON ON HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACT THROUGHOUT HER FIFTY-ONE-YEAR COACHING CAREER; AND TO CONGRATULATE HER ON HER RETIREMENT AND INDUCTION INTO THE ARKANSAS SPORTS HALL OF FAME.

WHEREAS, Van Compton, nee Gore, was born July 9, 1944, a native of Forrest City, Arkansas, and one (1) of eight (8) siblings; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Arkansas State University in 1965, she returned to her hometown to work as a physical education teacher at Forrest City High School; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Coach Compton was hired by Arkansas College, now Lyon College, to help start the women's sports program there following the 1972 passage of Title IX; and



WHEREAS, Coach Compton spent the next eleven (11) years coaching the women's volleyball and women's basketball teams at Arkansas College; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Coach Compton became the women's basketball coach at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; and

WHEREAS, when the women's basketball program was discontinued at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1988, Coach Compton was tapped to start the women's volleyball program and become the women's athletic coordinator at the school; and

WHEREAS, in Coach Compton's second season as the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Trojans women's volleyball coach, her team finished with a record of 27-11 as a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics program; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, University of Arkansas at Little Rock posted a record of twenty-one wins and three losses (21-3) and placed second at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock transitioned to the NCAA Division I level in 1991, becoming a member of the Sun Belt Conference; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Coach Compton was named Sun Belt Coach of the Year after posting a 24-12 record and finishing second in the league; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Coach Compton and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock won its first of three (3) consecutive Sun Belt Conference Tournament Championships, earning three (3) straight appearances in the NCAA Division I Volleyball Tournament; and

WHEREAS, Coach Compton and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock won the 2000 Sun Belt Conference regular season and tournament championships, returning to the NCAA Tournament; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Coach Compton fielded the best University of Arkansas at Little Rock team in program history, finishing the Sun Belt Conference regular season with a perfect record, twenty wins and zero losses (20-0), making it the only Sun Belt team to ever do so; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Coach Compton's team finished the season with an overall record of thirty wins and five losses (30-5) and cracked the American Volleyball Coaches Association's Top 25 poll for the first time; and

WHEREAS, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock won the Sun Belt Conference Tournament Championship in 2014, earning another trip to the NCAA Tournament and advancing to the NCAA Second Round for the first time in program history; and

WHEREAS, Coach Compton earned her second Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year honor in 2014, while becoming the winningest coach in Sun Belt Conference history and being named the Southwest Region Coach of the Year by the American Volleyball Coaches Association; and

WHEREAS, Coach Compton retired as Head Volleyball Coach at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in December 2025; and

WHEREAS, Coach Compton won over six hundred (600) matches at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, finishing with a record of six hundred three wins and five hundred twenty-seven losses (603-527) and an overall record of six hundred seventy-five wins and six hundred seven losses (675-607); and

WHEREAS, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock volleyball program under Coach Compton won four (4) regular-season championships, five (5) conference tournament championships, and made five (5) post-season appearances; and

WHEREAS, Coach Compton expanded her reach to impact young female athletes in Arkansas by founding the Little Rock Juniors Volleyball Club, a youth volleyball club, a nonprofit club that is concluding its twenty-eighth season

of competition, making it one of the oldest volleyball clubs in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Coach Compton has seen the evolution of women's athletics change from the advent of Title IX to today and recognizes that collegiate athletics can change the lives of women in our state, our nation, and the world, which can be specifically seen by her choice to recruit student-athletes from war-torn regions like Bosnia in the 1990s to "give those young people a chance to come here and build something different – that's something I'll always be proud of"; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2026, Coach Van Compton was inducted into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate recognize and congratulate Coach Van Compton for her impact on the sport of volleyball in Arkansas; her success in building women's athletics programs at Lyon College and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; the championships, postseason appearances, and accolades bestowed upon her by her coaching peers; her impact on female athletes in Arkansas, the United States, and around the world throughout her fifty-one-year coaching career; and her 2026 induction into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Van Compton, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Department of Athletics, and the Little Rock Juniors Volleyball Club by the Secretary of the Senate.