

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-43

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 4, 2023

To recognize, honor, and congratulate the Howard University Men’s Basketball team for their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1992.

WHEREAS, Howard University is located alongside Georgia Avenue in Ward 1, with its university motto being ‘excellence in truth and service’;

WHEREAS, Howard University, prior to the season entered into a 20-year partnership with Jordan Brand, making Howard the only Division 1 HBCU to have one;

WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball team won their first outright Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) regular season championship since 1987;

WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball team won their first MEAC Tournament championship since 1992;

WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball team won 22 games which is the second-most in program history;

WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball team had back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 1986-87 and 1987-88;

WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball program engaged in a season-long social justice project centered on Black Maternal Health advocacy to honor the legacy of activism at Howard;

WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball program as part of their advocacy they hosted volunteer events at Mamatoto Village and the DC Diaper Bank, while presenting scholarships to student mothers at Howard;

WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball program received national recognition for their advocacy from outlets including CNN, Uninterrupted, and The Washington Post;

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball team was led by Washington, DC native and Head Coach Kenneth Blakeney who can be credited for the remarkable turnaround of the program;

WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball Head Coach Kenneth Blakeney was recognized as the John McClendon National Coach of the Year, as well as the MEAC Coach of the Year;

WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball Head Coach Kenneth Blakeney was assisted by his dedicated coaching staff of Associate Head Coach Rod Balanis, Assistant Coaches Tyler Thornton and Steve Ongley, and Chief Program Strategist Daniel Marks;

WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball program was supported by 67 student-managers, with roughly 85% of them being females, making them a premier incubator of young African-American sports talent; and

WHEREAS, Howard University’s Men’s Basketball championship winning team members include:

- #0 Marcus Dockery – Junior
- #1 Khalil Robinson – Senior
- #2 Steve Settle – Redshirt Junior
- #3 Elijah Hawkins – Sophomore
- #4 Miles Stewart – Redshirt Freshman
- #5 Jelani Williams – Graduate Student
- #10 Talin Lewis – Graduate Student
- #11 Ose Okojie – Freshman
- #12 Kobe Dickson – Senior
- #13 Thomas Weaver – Junior
- #14 Ayodele Taiwo – Redshirt Freshman
- #15 Reece Brown – Junior
- #22 Shyheim Odom – Freshman
- #24 Jordan Wood – Junior
- #25 Aaron Roberson – Freshman
- #34 Bryce Harris – Sophomore
- #55 Freedom Rhames – Freshman

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Howard University Men’s Basketball Championship Recognition Resolution of 2023”.

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the Howard University Men's Basketball program for winning the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference tournament and for participating in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament for the first time since 1992.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.