

## Senate Resolution 580

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Cowser of the 46th, Miller of the 49th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Dugan of the 30th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia State University Men's Basketball Team on their championship  
2 season and outstanding performance in the 2015 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament; and  
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Georgia State Panthers enjoyed back-to-back regular season Sun Belt  
5 Conference championships in 2014 and 2015; and

6 WHEREAS, the Panthers were named 2015 Sun Belt Conference champions with a 22-9  
7 record in the regular season, earned the number one seed for the Sun Belt tournament, and  
8 went on to win the championship by defeating their in-state rival, the Georgia Southern  
9 Eagles, in an incredible defensive battle that included a celebration injury for Coach Ron  
10 Hunter; and

11 WHEREAS, the Panthers arrived at the NCAA tournament in Jacksonville, Florida, as a  
12 number 14 seed, where they took on a powerful number three seed, the Baylor Bears, for one  
13 of the most exciting games in tournament history, capturing the attention of the world; and

14 WHEREAS, the Panthers clawed back from a 12 point deficit in the remaining three minutes  
15 of the game and executed an incredible 3 point shot by guard R. J. Hunter, which put the  
16 Panthers ahead with 2.6 seconds left in the game and simply knocked their beloved coach,  
17 Ron Hunter, off his now infamous rolling chair; and

18 WHEREAS, the Panthers pulled off a thrilling upset and bracket buster over the number  
19 three seed Baylor Bears by a score of 57-56, which allowed them to advance to the next  
20 round for only the second time in Georgia State University history; and

21 WHEREAS, the Panthers played another incredible game against a powerful and proficient  
22 Xavier team, ending their tournament run for 2015 with a 25-10 record, tied for the  
23 second-most wins in school history and vowing to return; and

24 WHEREAS, the championship team includes seniors Ryann Green, Ryan Harrow, and Curtis  
25 Washington, along with teammates Kevin Ware, Jalen Brown, R. J. Hunter, T. J. Shipes,  
26 Markus Crider, Jeremy Hollowell, Isaiah Dennis, Isaiah Williams, Corey Tobin, Jordan  
27 Session, Jeff Thomas, and Carter Cagle; and

28 WHEREAS, the incredible journey and performance of the team is the result of outstanding  
29 athletic ability, hard work, dedication, and the unity of purpose and spirit of each and every  
30 member of the team and coaching staff; and

31 WHEREAS, this championship team was led by Coach Ron Hunter and assistant coaches  
32 Darryl LaBarrie, Everick Sullivan, Claude Pardue, Joby Wright, Jeff Diepenbrock, and Nate  
33 Summers, athletic trainer Dinika Johnson, and team physician Dr. Letha Griffith; and

34 WHEREAS, the entire Panther Nation is proud of this very special team of young men who  
35 have battled adversity, injury, and competition to stand as champions with a 25-10 record and  
36 who have become great ambassadors of athletic excellence in Georgia.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
38 commend the Georgia State University Men's Basketball Team for back-to-back conference  
39 championship titles and an amazing run in the 2015 NCAA Tournament.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
41 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Georgia State  
42 University and its Athletic Director, Charlie Cobb.