

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 475

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Penny Hardaway and the University of Memphis Tigers on an outstanding basketball season.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize a team of remarkable young men who selflessly united behind their strengths to attain excellence in collegiate basketball; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2018-2019 University of Memphis men's basketball team elevated themselves to elite status in college basketball by winning 22 games, including a postseason victory in the National Invitation Tournament (NIT), in Coach Penny Hardaway's first season at the helm; and

WHEREAS, posting an 18-3 home record at the FedEx Forum, Memphis led the American Athletic Conference (AAC) in scoring offense and assists and finished fifth in regular-season conference play; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers then won two games in the AAC Tournament to reach the semifinals; qualifying for the postseason for the first time since 2014, Memphis destroyed San Diego in the NIT to advance to the second round; and

WHEREAS, highlights of Memphis's initial season under Coach Hardaway include a double-overtime victory over Baylor, a huge road win against Wichita State, a sold-out game versus the University of Tennessee at the Forum, a critical victory over Central Florida in the AAC tournament, and a five-win February that featured five thirty-plus-point games by senior Jeremiah Martin; and

WHEREAS, Jeremiah Martin was the leading scorer in the AAC, averaging 19.7 points, 4.3 rebounds, and a team-leading 4.4 assists per game this season for the Tigers; and

WHEREAS, a unanimous first team all-conference selection for 2018-2019, Jeremiah Martin became the first player in Memphis basketball history to score 40 or more points twice in a season; he also set AAC single-game records for most points (43) and most field goals (15); and

WHEREAS, senior Kyvon Davenport led the team in rebounding, and Tyler Harris was named to the AAC All-Freshman team; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2018-2019 Memphis Tigers team are Kyvon Davenport, Tyler Harris, Alex Lomax, Jeremiah Martin, Raynere Thornton, Kareem Brewton, Jr., Mike Parks, Jr., Antwann Jones, Victor Enoch, Isaiah Maurice, Lance Thomas, Karim Sameh Azab, Jayden Hardaway, Evin Olds, Ryan Boyce, and David Wingett; and

WHEREAS, Penny Hardaway, a college hoops legend at then Memphis State University whose name is synonymous with basketball in the Bluff City, returned to his alma mater for the 2018-2019 season to add to its rich basketball legacy as head coach; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Penny Hardaway was an All-American at Memphis State; his jersey number, 25, has been retired by the school; and

WHEREAS, a four-time NBA All-Star, he won three TSSAA State basketball championships as the head coach of Memphis East High School before working miracles at Memphis this season; and

WHEREAS, Coach Hardaway relied heavily on the expertise of his staff: Sam Mitchell, associate coach; Tony Madlock, assistant coach; Mike Miller, assistant coach; Rodney Hamilton, director of basketball operations; Dwight Boyd, director of player personnel; Brad Anderson, athletic trainer; Ryan McPhail, equipment manager; Randy Flores, strength coach; and Derrick Mallison, video coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Penny Hardaway and the Memphis Tigers are on the right path to lead their basketball program back to glory, and we cannot wait until their arrival at the top of the heap; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Coach Penny Hardaway and the University of Memphis Tigers on an outstanding 22-win basketball season in 2018-2019 and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success, both on and off the court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.