

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 499

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION recognizing Lionel Hollins, head coach of the Memphis Grizzlies.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those individuals who, through their basketball acumen and indelible leadership abilities, have brought honor and recognition to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Lionel Hollins, head coach of the National Basketball Association's (NBA) Memphis Grizzlies, is one such individual; and

WHEREAS, since assuming the head coach position in the Grizzlies' organization on January 25, 2009, when he became the eleventh coach in Grizzlies' history, Lionel Hollins has striven to instill his work ethic and commitment to the principles of the game of basketball in the Memphis roster; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Arizona State University and native of Las Vegas, Nevada, Lionel Hollins was the sixth player chosen in the first round of the 1975 NBA draft. He was drafted by the Portland Trail Blazers; and

WHEREAS, over the course of a stellar ten-year career as a player in the NBA, Coach Hollins earned 1976 Rookie First Team honors, 1978 All-Star and All-Defensive First Team honors, and an NBA Championship as a starter for the 1977 Trail Blazers; and

WHEREAS, as a player, Lionel Hollins averaged 11.6 points, 4.5 assists, and 1.56 steals over 673 career games with the Trail Blazers, the Philadelphia 76ers, the San Diego Clippers, the Detroit Pistons, and the Houston Rockets; and

WHEREAS, Lionel Hollins then served as an assistant coach of the Phoenix Suns from 1988 until 1995, when he joined the Vancouver franchise as an assistant coach, a position to which he dedicated his time and energies until 2007; and

WHEREAS, returning to coaching in 2008, Mr. Hollins served as an assistant coach for the Milwaukee Bucks and was chosen as the interim coach of the Memphis team on two occasions before becoming its head coach in early 2009; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Lionel Hollins has been inducted into the halls of fame of the NCAA, Arizona State University, Nevada High School Basketball, Southern Nevada Sports, and the Pac-10 Conference, was named as one of the Top 100 Athletes of Nevada and one of the Top 150 Athletes of Arizona, and had his number 14 jersey retired by the Trail Blazers on April 28, 2007; and

WHEREAS, a firm believer in the importance of community involvement, Mr. Hollins established the Lionel Hollins Bowling for Backpacks event in 1993, which has raised thousands of dollars which are used to purchase school supplies and uniforms for underprivileged youth; and

WHEREAS, Coach Hollins has guided the Memphis team to achieve a spectacular level of success in the 2010-2011 season, in which the team won forty-six of its eighty-two regular season games and secured a berth in the playoffs; and

WHEREAS, despite being seeded at the bottom of their bracket, the Grizzlies dismantled the San Antonio Spurs in the first round of the postseason playoffs before losing to the Oklahoma City Thunder in seven games in the second round; and

WHEREAS, Lionel Hollins has utilized his significant leadership abilities and his understanding of the game of basketball to lead his players and his staff to an elevated level of success, and it is fitting that he be recognized for his accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize Lionel Hollins for his efforts as the coach of the Memphis Grizzlies, extending our best wishes for his every future success and happiness.

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