

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0002

Kenny Sailors-Naismith Hall of Fame.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Blake, Brown, Dayton,
Freeman, Harshman, Moniz, Pelkey and Walters
and Senator(s) Bebout, Hastert, Landen and
Rothfuss

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION recognizing the contributions of Kenny
2 Sailors to the game of basketball and encouraging his
3 election to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

4

5 WHEREAS, Kenny Sailors was raised on a farm south of
6 Hillsdale, Wyoming where he developed a jump shot playing
7 against his taller brother Bud; and

8

9 WHEREAS, Kenny Sailors is widely attributed with inventing
10 the jump shot; and

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12 WHEREAS, Kenny Sailors used his jump shot to lead the
13 University of Wyoming to the NCAA Basketball Tournament
14 Championship in 1943 where the Wyoming Cowboys defeated the
15 Georgetown Hoyas forty-six (46) to thirty-four (34); and

1

2 WHEREAS, after winning the NCAA Championship, the
3 University of Wyoming played the National Invitational
4 Tournament Champion St. John's Redmen in a Red Cross
5 benefit game for the war effort. In that game the Wyoming
6 Cowboys defeated St. John's by a score of fifty-two (52) to
7 forty-seven (47), in Madison Square Garden; and

8

9 WHEREAS, beyond his individual accomplishments in those
10 tournaments and in his career, Kenny Sailors displayed his
11 perfected jump shot, which became iconic, as well described
12 in "***The Origins of the Jump Shot***," (University of Nebraska
13 Press, 1999, pp. 205-206) by author John Christgau:

14

15 "One shot by Kenny Sailors . . . remains historic
16 He had stolen a pass and then raced down
17 the left side of the floor At the top of
18 the key, he cut to his right and then stopped
19 suddenly and jumped. Courtside spectators in
20 folding chairs watched as he seemed to rise up
21 into the scoreboard Now, at the peak of
22 his jump and hanging-in-the-air in Madison Square
23 Garden, he drew a bead on the basket Just

1 before he dropped his left hand away to release
2 the shot, a photographer's flashbulb exploded
3 silently. To the 18,056 fans who were watching,
4 the flashbulb explosion seemed to freeze Kenny
5 Sailors in the air, while beneath him men as
6 floor-bound as statuary looked up in awe. Two
7 weeks later Life Magazine ran a photo story of
8 the game . . . millions of young players saw
9 that picture of Kenny's jump shot in Life, and
10 that . . . began a chain reaction in basketball .
11 . . . Everywhere young players on basketball
12 courts began jumping to shoot."

13

14 WHEREAS, legends of the game of basketball have
15 acknowledged that the jump shot forever changed the game
16 and that Kenny Sailors' omission from the Naismith Memorial
17 Basketball Hall of Fame is inexplicable; and

18

19 WHEREAS, Kenny Sailors is on the list of nominees for
20 induction in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame
21 for 2016; and

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1 WHEREAS, the legislature of the state of Wyoming is proud
2 of its native son and his contributions to Wyoming and the
3 game of basketball on a worldwide level.

4

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE
6 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

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8 **Section 1.** That Kenny Sailors be recognized as the
9 player most responsible for the use of the modern day jump
10 shot used in the game of basketball at all levels,
11 throughout the world.

12

13 **Section 2.** That the absence of Kenny Sailors from the
14 Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame is an omission
15 that is without justification.

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17 **Section 3.** That Kenny Sailors should be inducted into
18 the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2016.

19

1 **Section 4.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
2 transmit copies of this resolution to Kenny Sailors' family
3 and to the Board of Governors of the Naismith Memorial
4 Basketball Hall of Fame.

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6

(END)