

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

SR 20

4
5 By: Senator Steele

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8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 TO HONOR THE 1994 UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
10 RAZORBACK NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
11 BASKETBALL TEAM.

12
13 **Subtitle**

14 TO HONOR THE 1994 UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
15 RAZORBACK NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL
16 CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL TEAM.

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19 WHEREAS, National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame coach Nolan
20 Richardson and the 1994 Arkansas Razorbacks epitomized the "Forty (40)
21 Minutes of Hell" style of basketball imposed upon Razorback opponents and
22 delivered perhaps the most exciting basketball season in the school's
23 history; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the Razorbacks made the Final Four of the NCAA basketball
26 tournament in 1990, 1994, a year they spent ranked among the top three (3)
27 teams in the nation, and 1995, showcasing Nolan Richardson's pressing
28 pressure defense and fast-moving "run-and-gun" brand of basketball that
29 usually spelled victory for the Hogs and that always gave the Razorbacks the
30 opportunity to come from behind to erase any deficit; and

31
32 WHEREAS, in 1994 the Razorbacks spent nine (9) weeks as the consensus
33 number one (1) team in the nation before beating Duke University, cheered on
34 by sitting President Bill Clinton and his family, and winning the NCAA
35 Division I Men's National Championship, the first in the school's history;
36 and



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2 WHEREAS, in the 1994 national championship game, the second-seeded
3 Razorbacks faced sixth-seeded Duke, the 1991 and 1992 national champion, and
4 after trailing by ten (10) points early in the second half, called timeout
5 with 1:29 left and the score tied 70-70; and
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7 WHEREAS, with the shot clock winding down and less than a minute to
8 play, Scotty Thurman found himself with a split-second opportunity and
9 launched a successful three-point shot, a shot that along with the 1994 title
10 stands alone in Razorback lore; and
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12 WHEREAS, according to both coaches and players, history could have
13 easily immortalized a different Razorback's jump shot in the national
14 championship game, as the team-first attitude was crucial to the success of
15 the program's most memorable play and its crowning achievement; and
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17 WHEREAS, Coach Nolan Richardson was quoted as saying, "Our team was
18 based on concepts. That pass was a good pass to Dwight [Stewart], but he
19 bobbled the ball. He was a good three-point shooter, but he passed to Scotty
20 and he was spotted up. That was one of the biggest shots in the 40 years I
21 coached."; and
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23 WHEREAS, according to Corliss Williamson, winner of the 1994 Final Four
24 Most Valuable Player award, the team-first attitude was a key ingredient to
25 the Hogs having a 31-3 record, winning the title, and earning a No. 1
26 ranking. "Sacrifice is something Coach Richardson preached from day one,"
27 Williamson said. "He did a great job of motivating everyone and getting
28 everyone on the same page. We all understood the game, being unselfish and
29 being able to pass the ball. No one was selfish or wanted to take all the
30 shots."; and
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32 WHEREAS, the 1994 Razorback championship team roster included Corey
33 Beck, Ray Biggers, Ken Biley, Roger Crawford, Alex Dillard, John Engskov,
34 Reggie Garrett, Elmer Martin, Reggie Merritt, Clint McDaniel, Davor Rimac,
35 Darnell Robinson, Dwight Stewart, Scotty Thurman, Craig Tyson, Corliss
36 Williamson, Lee Wilson, Head Coach Nolan Richardson, and Assistant Coaches

1 Mike Anderson, Brad Dunn, and Nolan Richardson III,

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3 NOW THEREFORE,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE

5 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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7 That the Senate honors the outstanding record and achievements of the
8 1994 University of Arkansas at Fayetteville Razorback basketball team and its
9 NCAA Division I Men's National Basketball Championship.

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