



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

Introduced by: Austin

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION honoring Mr. John Edward
2 Wilson.

3 *Whereas, Mr. John Edward Wilson was known for his*
4 *exceptional drive, hard work, and mentorship displayed both on*
5 *and off the basketball court;*

6 *Whereas, Mr. Wilson was born in 1927 and raised in*
7 *Anderson, Indiana, where he attended Anderson High School.*
8 *During high school he used his athletic ability to shatter racial*
9 *barriers. Wilson led the Anderson Indians to their third state*
10 *title in basketball, scoring 30 points in the 1946 championship*
11 *game, then a state finals record;*

12 *Whereas, Mr. Wilson excelled in Anderson High School*
13 *athletics and also enjoyed playing football, track, and baseball.*
14 *His tremendous athletic ability led him to be named the state's*

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1 *first African-American Mr. Basketball and earned him the*
2 *nickname "Jumpin' Johnny", which he later confirmed by*
3 *winning the state championship in the high jump;*

4 *Whereas, Mr. Wilson aspired to play college basketball and*
5 *worked diligently in spite of racial barriers still rampant in*
6 *college athletics. He was not afforded the opportunity to play*
7 *for his dream school, Indiana University, but continued his*
8 *search for a strong athletic program and found the Ravens at*
9 *Anderson College. While attending Anderson College he earned*
10 *11 letters in four different sports, was selected three times in*
11 *basketball as all-conference and team MVP, was twice named*
12 *all-American, and finished third in the nation in scoring in*
13 *1949;*

14 *Whereas, Anderson College's integrated basketball team was*
15 *excluded from multiple opportunities, but Mr. Wilson built a*
16 *notable college career and still holds Anderson University's*
17 *records for career scoring average (23.3), season scoring*
18 *average (25.4), and field goal attempts in a game (56) and*
19 *ranks eighth on the career scoring list with 1,540 points. He*
20 *was also named all-conference and team MVP in both baseball*
21 *and track;*

22 *Whereas, Mr. Wilson joined the fabled Harlem Globetrotters*
23 *and pioneered his famous drop kick shot, which became a*
24 *regular part of the Globetrotters' routine, and he retired as a*
25 *Globetrotter in 1954;*

26 *Whereas, Mr. Wilson returned to college, obtained a*
27 *teaching degree, and accepted a coaching position at*
28 *Indianapolis Wood High School. There, he became the first*
29 *African-American coach at an integrated school in Indiana. In*
30 *his eight seasons as coach, Wood teams won 139 games and*
31 *lost 59;*

32 *Whereas, Mr. Wilson contributed many years to building*
33 *strong basketball teams across high school and college*
34 *campuses in Indiana and the U.S. He was dedicated to his*
35 *players' success on the basketball court as well as their*
36 *education. He was a mentor to many and taught the importance*
37 *of personal resilience and working hard;*



1 *Whereas, Mr. Wilson was recognized many times for his*
2 *excellence in athletics. Anderson High School erected a statue*
3 *in his honor in 2016, and he was inducted into the Indiana*
4 *Basketball Hall of Fame in 1994 and the Anderson University*
5 *Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997. He was named one of Madison*
6 *County's 100 Greatest Athletes in 2012, one of the Top 50*
7 *Athletes of the Century in Indiana, and Co-Athlete of the*
8 *Century by the Herald Bulletin with teammate and fellow*
9 *Anderson University Hall of Famer Carl Erskine;*

10 *Whereas, Mr. Wilson was praised for his contributions to the*
11 *community and received recognition from Malcolm X College,*
12 *Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Boy Scouts of America, the*
13 *Masons, Black Expo, and the city of Anderson and was chosen*
14 *as a goodwill ambassador by the Harlem Globetrotters;*

15 *Whereas, Mr. Wilson also recognized many young men and*
16 *women at the Herald Bulletin's "Johnny Wilson Awards"*
17 *annual luncheon where local multisport student-athletes were*
18 *recognized and honored; and*

19 *Whereas, Mr. Wilson made revolutionary contributions to*
20 *the city of Anderson, the Madison County community, the state*
21 *of Indiana, and our nation: Therefore,*

22 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*
23 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

24 SECTION 1. That the House of Representatives honors the
25 memory of Mr. John Edward Wilson for his contributions to
26 athletics, Anderson, Indiana, the state of Indiana, and the United
27 States of America.

28 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
29 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the family
30 of Mr. John Edward Wilson.

