

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 376

By Lamar

A RESOLUTION to honor Coach Penny Hardaway and the University of Memphis Tigers on winning the 2021 National Invitation Tournament.

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2021, Coach Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway and his University of Memphis (UM) men's basketball team won the prestigious National Invitation Tournament (NIT) to the great delight of Tigers fans around the globe; and

WHEREAS, in only his third season at the helm, Coach Hardaway led the Tigers to an excellent 20-8 overall mark, an 11-4 record in the American Athletic Conference (AAC), and four victories in the oldest college basketball tournament to claim championship laurels; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers really found their stride during the latter part of the 2020-2021 campaign; they won eleven of their final thirteen games, with the only two losses coming against AAC champions and NCAA Tournament Elite Eight team, the University of Houston, by a total of five points; and

WHEREAS, the UM Tigers then recharged their batteries and refocused their energies to compete in the NIT, and compete they did; and

WHEREAS, Memphis shot down the Dayton Flyers by a score of 71-60 in the first round and then tamed the Boise State Broncos, 59-56, in the quarterfinal match-up; and

WHEREAS, in the semifinal round, the Tigers dehorned the Colorado State Rams by twenty-three points, 90-67, to advance to the NIT championship game; and

WHEREAS, facing off against border-state rivals Mississippi State in the final, the Tigers took the bite out of the Bulldogs' comeback effort to emerge victorious by a score of 77-64 and claim only the second NIT title in program history; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers roster includes the following talented young players and even more outstanding young men, D.J. Jeffries, Jayden Hardaway, Alex Lomax, Landers Nolley II, Boogie Ellis, Damion Baugh, Lester Quinones, Deandre Williams, Jordan Nesbitt, Malcolm Dandridge, Conor Glennon, and Moussa Cisse; and

WHEREAS, Coach Penny Hardaway relied heavily upon the expertise of his assistant coaches, Tony Madlock, Cody Toppert, and Jermaine Johnson; director of basketball operations, Rodney Hamilton; director of player personnel, Dwight Boyd; video coordinator, Derrick Mallison; strength coach, Darby Rich; head athletic trainer, Chris Simmons; equipment manager, Ryan McPhail; physical therapist, Kevin Olds; and team chaplain, Stephen Brown; and

WHEREAS, Coach Hardaway and the University of Memphis Tigers have clawed their way to the top of the heap by winning the 2021 NIT, and they are richly deserving of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Coach Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway and the University of Memphis men's basketball team on winning the oldest college basketball tournament, the National Invitation Tournament, and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success next season during March Madness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.