

H. Res. 679

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

June 21, 2004.

Whereas on June 15, 2004, the Detroit Pistons defeated the Los Angeles Lakers to win the 2004 National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship;

Whereas the Pistons defeated the Milwaukee Bucks four games to one in the first round of the playoffs;

Whereas the Pistons defeated the defending Eastern Conference Champion New Jersey Nets four games to three in the hard fought Eastern Conference Semifinals;

Whereas the Pistons defeated the Indiana Pacers, the number one seeded team in the Eastern Conference, four games to two in the Eastern Conference Finals;

Whereas the Pistons defeated the Lakers four games to one in the NBA Finals, winning their first NBA Championship since 1990 and becoming the first Eastern Conference team to win the championship since 1998;

Whereas the gritty offense of the Pistons was lead by Richard Hamilton, who averaged more than 21.5 points and 4.2 per assists per game throughout the NBA playoffs;

Whereas Rasheed Wallace overcame a foot injury to provide 26 points and 13 rebounds in the crucial game four victory;

Whereas Ben Wallace, a two-time NBA defensive player of the year and three-time member of the NBA All-Defensive First Team, brought the working-class mind-set to the Pistons and symbolizes the Pistons stifling defense;

Whereas Tayshaun Prince played tenacious defense and prevented Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant from being an effective scorer against the Pistons;

Whereas Chauncey Billups was voted the Most Valuable Player of the Finals for his outstanding performance throughout the NBA playoffs, averaging 21 points and 5.2 assists while only committing 2.6 turnovers per game;

Whereas Head Coach Larry Brown did an outstanding job preparing the Pistons for victory over an exceptional Lakers team and became the first head coach to win both the NBA and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Basketball Championships;

Whereas former Piston and current President of Basketball Operations Joe Dumars, Coach Brown, and assistant coaches John Kuester, Mike Woodson, Dave Hanners, Herb Brown, and Igor Stefan Kokoskov have provided strong leadership and solid coaching, resulting in a basketball team in which teamwork and hard work are the rule and not the exception;

Whereas Pistons fans have shown undying support for their team, leading the league in attendance in a year where attendance records were broken throughout the NBA;

Whereas the Pistons exemplify what can be achieved by a talented group of players working together for a common goal;

Whereas the Pistons have shown that basketball remains a team sport and have reminded fans that the game is still a team game with fundamentals at its heart and soul;

Whereas sportswriter Eric Neel wrote of the Pistons, “Once upon a time, there was a shared ball on offense and a shared responsibility on defense. In their Game 5 victory, as in the previous four games, it was that time all over again. We’ve got retro jerseys and throwback sneaks, now we’ve got a world champion from back in the day, to go with them.”;

Whereas the success of the Pistons is a result of contributions from the entire roster of players, including Chauncey Billups, Elden Campbell, Darvin Ham, Richard Hamilton, Lindsey Hunter, Mike James, Darko Milicic, Mehmet Okur, Tayshaun Prince, Ben Wallace, Rasheed Wallace, and Corliss Williamson; and

Whereas the Pistons displayed tremendous strength, ability, and perseverance during the 2003–2004 season, attributes that are reflective of the hardworking people of the metropolitan Detroit region and the State of Michigan, and have epitomized the team slogan “Goin’ to work. Every night.”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Detroit Pistons for winning the 2004 National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship and for their outstanding performance during the entire 2003–2004 season; and

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the players, coaches, and staff of the Pistons, who were instrumental in helping the Pistons win a third NBA Championship.

Attest:

Clerk.