

SENATE RESOLUTION 129
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Shane Battier on his outstanding academic and athletic accomplishments and thank him for his astute service to the Memphis community and the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting for this General Assembly to pause in its deliberations and recognize those exceptional young men and women who possess the unique combination of academic excellence, athletic skill, and social responsibility; and

WHEREAS, a native of Birmingham, Michigan, Shane Battier is one such noteworthy individual; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Battier possesses a vast array of talents, ranging from remarkable musical ability to athletic prowess to academic proficiency, yet he remains humble about his gifts and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, although he is only 23 years old, Mr. Battier has already enjoyed an illustrious athletic career that most players can only dream of achieving; and

WHEREAS, as a student at Detroit Country Day High School, Shane Battier led his team to three consecutive Michigan basketball state championships and earned a scholarship to play basketball for Duke University; and

WHEREAS, at Duke University, Shane Battier led his team to an astonishing record of 133 wins and only 15 losses in his four-year career as a Blue Devil, thus recording more wins than any other player in NCAA history; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Battier's statistics speak volumes for his athletic ability as he was the first player in ACC history, and only the fourth nationally, to finish his collegiate career with at least 1,500 points, 500 rebounds, 200 blocks, 200 assists, and 200 steals; he is also Duke's all-time leader in steals with 266; and he ranks second in career blocked shots with 254; third in three-point field goals with 246; third in three-point field goal percentage at 41.6 percent; and is tied for eighth in points scored with 1,984; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these phenomenal statistics, Shane Battier was named the consensus National Player of the Year of 2001, winning both the Naismith and John Wooden Awards; he also earned National Defensive Player of the Year honors for three years and was named to the All-American Team; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Battier was an integral part of Duke University's 2001 National Championship Team, earning Most Valuable Player honors in the Championship Game; his outstanding leadership and exemplary dedication were essential elements to the astounding success of the Duke University Blue Devils; and

WHEREAS, after his collegiate career, Shane Battier was drafted in the first round, sixth pick overall, by the National Basketball Association's Memphis Grizzlies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Battier has had an immediate positive impact on the Grizzlies in his rookie season, contributing 15 points per game; he is eleventh in the NBA in minutes played at 39.4 minutes per game; and 17th in steals to turnover ratio at 0.91; and

WHEREAS, Shane Battier has accumulated numerous accolades in his rookie season, including being named Rookie of the Month for December and selection to the Rookie All-Star Game during the NBA All-Star weekend; and

WHEREAS, Shane Battier also enjoyed the unique opportunity of representing the United States in the Goodwill Games, where he assisted the USA Basketball team in winning the Gold Medal; and

WHEREAS, Shane Battier is the consummate team player with a peerless work ethic, continually placing the needs of his team far above his own; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Battier is one of the most fundamentally sound basketball players in the NBA; this quality enables him to play any position on the floor, and makes him invaluable to his team; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Battier is not only an incredible athlete, but he is also a proficient and dedicated scholar. He graduated from Duke University in May of 2001, earning a degree in Comparative Religions, and received Academic Player of the Year honors; and

WHEREAS, Shane Battier's musical ability was evident at age 12 when he was selected the First Chair trumpet player from among 106 trumpet players in Birmingham, Michigan's Annual Youth Orchestra Concert; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Battier is a young man of outstanding character and integrity and is quickly becoming a valuable member of the Memphis community; and

WHEREAS, Shane Battier is actively involved in numerous civic organizations, including the Memphis Zoological Society Board of Directors, the First Tennessee National Corporation Advisory Board, and the Electronic Arts Sports Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Battier recognizes the importance of education in the lives of young people and actively participates in the children's lives through programs such as the "Tickets for Kids," which provides Grizzlies tickets for young people who participate in Junior Achievement and Big Brothers/Big Sisters; he is an active member of the Memphis Grizzlies Read to Achieve

All-Star Reading Team and the spokesman for the Memphis “Get Smart, Read” campaign and for the “Bowlin’ on the River” fundraiser for the Memphis Junior Achievement; and

WHEREAS, it is uplifting to witness a young man with exceptional athletic ability and impeccable character utilize his influence as a professional athlete for the good of the community; and

WHEREAS, a young man with exceptional talents and a compassionate heart, Shane Battier is an asset to the State of Tennessee and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor and commend Mr. Shane Battier on his outstanding academic and athletic accomplishments and thank him for his astute service and generous contributions to the Memphis community and to the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.