

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 576

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Wooddale High School boys' basketball team on winning the TSSAA Division I Class AA State Championship.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize a team of remarkable young men who selflessly united behind one goal to attain the very pinnacle of Tennessee high school basketball; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2018-2019 Wooddale High School boys' basketball team elevated themselves to elite status by posting an overall record of 33-4 and winning their school's first ever State Championship in basketball; and

WHEREAS, the Cardinals captured the regional tournament crown with victories over Haywood, Covington, and Mitchell and then destroyed South Gibson in the sectional round to advance to the TSSAA Class AA State Tournament; and

WHEREAS, facing off against Austin-East in the quarterfinals, Wooddale cruised to an 18-point victory; in the semifinals, the Cardinals bested Brainerd by 11 points to reach the championship game; and

WHEREAS, in the finals, Wooddale emerged victorious over Knoxville Fulton by 13 points thanks to the inspired play of top-100 college prospect Chandler Lawson who posted 16 points and 11 rebounds; his brother, Johnathan Lawson, who recorded 16 points, 7 rebounds, and 3 assists; Alvin Miles who finished with 11 points; and Jonathan Duncan who scored 5 points after turning in solid performances throughout the State Tournament; and

WHEREAS, Chandler Lawson was named State Tournament Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive year and earned singular status as the first and only four-time State Champion in Memphis Division I history; and

WHEREAS, younger brother Johnathan Lawson is now a two-time State Champion and was named to this year's All-State Tournament team, along with teammate Jonathan Duncan; and

WHEREAS, the members of this terrific team are Andre Reed, Robert Mitchell, Kevin Brown, Alvin Miles, Antonio Thomas, Darrias Webster, Jonathan Duncan, Johnathan Lawson, Nathan Winfield, Chandler Lawson, Coland Carr, Arquesia Mayes, E'javion Mays, Tekevion Rounds, Avionne Suttle, and Carmelo Morgan; and

WHEREAS, this season's title was especially sweet for Coach Keelon Lawson, the patriarch of the first family of Memphis basketball, who is now a three-time State Champion; and

WHEREAS, in addition to leading his sons, Chandler and Johnathan Lawson, to the promised land this year as the coach of Wooddale, he previously guided Memphis Hamilton to two state titles, the second in 2015, with his sons Dedric and K.J. Lawson playing for their dad; and

WHEREAS, Keelon Lawson was strongly supported by his assistant coaches, Faulkner Arthur, Anthony Echols, Eric Shegog, and Jeremy Williams; and

WHEREAS, the Wooddale High School Cardinals made history in Tennessee high school basketball this season, and they should be commended as they hoist their 2019 State Championship banner; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Coach Keelon Lawson and the members of the Wooddale High School boys' basketball team on winning the TSSAA Division I Class AA State Championship and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success, both on and off the court.

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