

House Resolution 789

By: Representatives Jones of the 47th, Willard of the 51st, Ramsey of the 72nd, Yates of the 73rd, Golick of the 40th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending the Georgia State University Men's Basketball Team on their championship
2 season and outstanding performance in the 2015 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament and
3 inviting them to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.
- 4 WHEREAS, the Georgia State Panthers enjoyed back-to-back regular season Sun Belt
5 Conference championships in 2014 and 2015; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the Panthers were named 2015 Sun Belt Conference champions with a 22-9
7 record in the regular season, earned the number one seed for the Sun Belt tournament, and
8 went on to win the championship by defeating their in-state rival, the Georgia Southern
9 Eagles, in an incredible defensive battle that included a celebration injury for Coach Ron
10 Hunter; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the Panthers arrived at the NCAA tournament in Jacksonville, Florida, as a
12 number 14 seed, where they took on a powerful number three seed, the Baylor Bears, for one
13 of the most exciting games in tournament history, capturing the attention of the world; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the Panthers clawed back from a 12 point deficit in the remaining three minutes
15 of the game and executed an incredible 3 point shot by guard R. J. Hunter, which put the
16 Panthers ahead with 2.6 seconds left in the game and simply knocked their beloved coach,
17 Ron Hunter, off his now infamous rolling chair; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the Panthers pulled off a thrilling upset and bracket buster over the number
19 three seed Baylor Bears by a score of 57-56, which allowed them to advance to the next
20 round for only the second time in Georgia State University history; and
- 21 WHEREAS, the Panthers played another incredible game against a powerful and proficient
22 Xavier team, ending their tournament run for 2015 with a 25-10 record, tied for the
23 second-most wins in school history and vowing to return; and

24 WHEREAS, the championship team includes seniors Ryann Green, Ryan Harrow, and Curtis
25 Washington, along with teammates Kevin Ware, Jalen Brown, R. J. Hunter, T. J. Shipes,
26 Markus Crider, Jeremy Hollowell, Isaiah Dennis, Isaiah Williams, Corey Tobin, Jordan
27 Session, Jeff Thomas, and Carter Cagle; and

28 WHEREAS, the incredible journey and performance of the team is the result of outstanding
29 athletic ability, hard work, dedication, and the unity of purpose and spirit of each and every
30 member of the team and coaching staff; and

31 WHEREAS, this championship team was led by Coach Ron Hunter and assistant coaches
32 Darryl LaBarrie, Everick Sullivan, Claude Pardue, Joby Wright, Jeff Diepenbrock, and Nate
33 Summers, athletic trainer Dinika Johnson, and team physician Dr. Letha Griffith; and

34 WHEREAS, the entire Panther Nation is proud of this very special team of young men who
35 have battled adversity, injury, and competition to stand as champions with a 25-10 record and
36 who have become great ambassadors of athletic excellence in Georgia.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
38 the members of this body commend the Georgia State University Men's Basketball Team for
39 back-to-back conference championship titles and an amazing run in the 2015 NCAA
40 Tournament and invite them to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and
41 time to be determined by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
43 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to
44 Georgia State University and its Athletic Director, Charlie Cobb.