

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 281

To congratulate the Michigan State University Men's Basketball Team on winning the 2000 National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's Basketball Championship.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 4, 2000

Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following resolution;
which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

To congratulate the Michigan State University Men's Basketball Team on winning the 2000 National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's Basketball Championship.

Whereas the Michigan State Spartans were Big Ten Conference regular season co-champions, and were winners of the Big Ten Conference Tournament, and, with a 26–7 record, earned a number one seed in the Midwest region of the 1999–2000 N.C.A.A. Tournament;

Whereas the Michigan State Spartans proved their dominance over the Midwest Region in reaching the Final Four, defeating Valparaiso 65–38, Utah 73–61, Syracuse 75–58, and Iowa State 75–64;

Whereas in winning the Midwest Region the Michigan State Spartans reached the Men's Final Four for the second

year in a row, last year losing to the Duke University Blue Devils in the semifinals;

Whereas the Michigan State Spartans vowed after that loss to return to the Final Four in 1999–2000, and to settle for nothing less than the ultimate prize;

Whereas the Michigan State Spartans moved one step closer to their goal when they defeated the University of Wisconsin Badgers 53–41 for the fourth time of the 1999–2000 season to reach the championship game;

Whereas in that game, the Michigan State Spartans, with an entire team effort that demonstrated why college athletics are so special, defeated the University of Florida Gators 89–76 on April 3, 2000, and won the N.C.A.A. Men’s Basketball Championship for the second time in the history of the program;

Whereas Coach Tom Izzo, who hails from Iron Mountain, Michigan, in only his fifth year coaching the team, has proven himself to be one of the finest coaches in Men’s College Basketball, and he and his staff instilled into the Spartans a will to win second to none, exemplified by their cutthroat defense, which suffocated many potent offenses throughout the season, and particularly in the second half of N.C.A.A. Tournament games;

Whereas Mateen Cleaves, Morris Peterson, and A.J. Granger, three seniors who have been playing together for four years and who ended their collegiate careers with a win, spurred this team to victory throughout the year, Mr. Cleaves with his incredible leadership, Mr. Peterson with his clutch shooting, and Mr. Granger with his consistent long marksmanship;

Whereas Mateen Cleaves, Morris Peterson, and Charlie Bell, three individuals who hail from Flint, Michigan, and have thus been given the nickname “the Flintstones”, have been playing together since elementary school, and whose comradeship and loyalty to one another carried out onto the floor, and made the Spartans team a family off the floor as well;

Whereas Mateen Cleaves, the fearless captain of the team and the all-time assist leader in the Big Ten’s history, who led not only with words but also with the example he set, who returned to the championship game after sustaining a high ankle sprain to his right leg, led his team to the title and, like a true champion, made good on his word;

Whereas Morris Peterson, named the Big Ten Conference Player of the Year, saved the Michigan State Spartans from the clutches of defeat many times this season, and particularly in the tournament, with his laser-like shooting and stingy defense;

Whereas Charlie Bell, perhaps the best rebounding guard in the Nation, also led the team with his quickness, tireless defensive effort, and athleticism, and who will be counted upon for his leadership next year;

Whereas A.J. Granger, displayed his awesome variety of offensive skills in both assisting on, and hitting, several big shots when the Spartans needed them most;

Whereas Andre Hutson, the man in the middle, who was often called on to shut down the opposing teams top player, particularly in the 1999–2000 tournament, handled his job with a workmanlike skill that defined profes-

sionalism, and in doing so provided the Spartans with the whole package the entire year;

Whereas Mike Chappell, Jason Richardson, and Aloysius Anagonye provided the Spartans with quality minutes off the bench all year, and particularly in the championship game, where they held their own against the vaunted Florida bench;

Whereas David Thomas and Adam Ballinger provided valuable contributions throughout the season and the tournament, both on and off the court, often providing the Spartans with the lift they needed; and

Whereas the contributions of Steve Cherry, Mat Ishbia and Brandon Smith, both on the court and in practice, demonstrated the total devotion of the Spartans players to the team concept that made the Spartans into the most dominating college basketball team of the new millennium: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the United States Senate congratu-
 2 lates the Michigan State University Men's Basketball
 3 Team on winning the 1999–2000 National Collegiate Ath-
 4 letic Association Men's Basketball Championship.

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