

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 376

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 29 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 17), 2008

Received

OCTOBER 2 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 17), 2008

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Congratulating the 2007–2008 National Basketball Association World Champions, the Boston Celtics, on an outstanding and historic season.

Whereas the Boston Celtics are one of the most successful and respected franchises in the history of professional sports;

Whereas prior to the 2007–2008 season, the Celtics had won 16 National Basketball Association (NBA) championships, more than any other team in NBA history, with a cast of players that, over the years, has

included Hall of Famers such as Bill Russell, Bob Cousy, Tommy Heinsohn, John Havlicek, Dave Cowens, JoJo White, and other Celtic stars, whose accomplishments were captured from “high above courtside” by legendary Celtics sportscaster Johnny Most;

Whereas the Celtics’ unmatched record of achievement on the basketball court has been further enhanced by the team’s creation of an organizational culture, known as “Celtic Pride”, based on the values of teamwork, tenacity, and loyalty, which was developed and encouraged by the legendary, late Celtics’ head coach and team executive, Arnold “Red” Auerbach;

Whereas the Celtics’ performance last season, in which the team finished with a record of 24–58, losing 18 games in a row at one point during the season, was a stark departure from the team’s historically high caliber of play;

Whereas in the off-season, the Celtics’ Executive Director of Basketball Operations Danny Ainge, with the support of the team’s owners, responded quickly and aggressively to the disappointing season and acquired 2 NBA all-stars, power forward Kevin Garnett and guard Ray Allen;

Whereas Garnett and Allen joined Celtics’ all-star forward Paul Pierce and formed a “Big Three” of outstanding players reminiscent of the “Big Three” of past Celtic greats Larry Bird, Kevin McHale, and Robert Parish, who led the Celtics to NBA championships in the 1980s;

Whereas the combination of Garnett, Allen, and Pierce immediately sparked the most dramatic turnaround in NBA history, as the Celtics started the 2007–2008 season with an 8–0 record and kept the momentum throughout the season, achieving records of 20–2 and 40–9;

Whereas the Celtics finished the regular season with a league-best record of 66–16;

Whereas the Celtics entered the NBA playoffs with home court advantage as a result of the team’s regular season performance and defeated the Atlanta Hawks in the Eastern Conference quarterfinals in 7 games;

Whereas the Celtics then faced the Cleveland Cavaliers in the Eastern Conference semifinals, winning in 7 games, with team captain Paul Pierce scoring 41 points in a 97–92 victory in the deciding game;

Whereas the Celtics squared off against the Detroit Pistons in the Eastern Conference finals, clinching the series in 6 games, thanks to the outstanding plays of Paul Pierce, James Posey, Ray Allen, and Rajon Rondo;

Whereas the Celtics matchup with the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA finals represented a battle of league titans, as the Celtics–Lakers rivalry spans decades, and either the Celtics or the Lakers have won half of the NBA’s 62 championships;

Whereas the Celtics won the first 2 games of the finals in Boston, including a hard-fought Game 2 during which Leon Powe, the Celtics’ second-year power forward, scored 21 points in 15 minutes off the bench, propelling the Celtics to a 108–102 victory;

Whereas although the Celtics lost Game 3 in Los Angeles by a score of 87–81, the team overcame a 20-point deficit in the third quarter of Game 4 to record one of the greatest comebacks in NBA finals history, powered by active team defense and a tremendous performance by Celtics’ guard Ray Allen, who played all 48 minutes of the game on the way to a 97–91 Celtics victory;

Whereas although the Celtics were unable to defeat the Lakers in Game 5 despite a rally that fell just short, the Celtics responded by clinching a record 17th NBA championship in Game 6 on June 17, 2008, winning on the team's home court in Boston on the storied parquet floor now graced with Red Auerbach's signature by a score of 131–92, a 39-point margin that is the largest gap ever for an NBA finals closeout game;

Whereas the Celtics' revival from a last place finish in the Eastern Conference's Atlantic Division last season to a record 17th NBA Championship this season is the greatest single-season turnaround in NBA history;

Whereas in addition to the contributions of superstars Garnett, Allen, and Pierce, the strong, sustained efforts of the entire Celtics team, including Kendrick Perkins and a bench of tenacious and talented players such as Eddie House, James Posey, P.J. Brown, Sam Cassell, Tony Allen, Glen Davis, and Brian Scalabrine enabled the Celtics to return to the glory that has marked much of the franchise's history;

Whereas Celtics owners Wyc Grousbeck, Steve Pagliuca, H. Irving Grousbeck, and Bob Epstein, along with Executive Director of Basketball Operations Danny Ainge, Head Coach Doc Rivers, and the entire Celtics roster and coaching staff have earned a special place in Boston sports history; and

Whereas the Celtics have joined with the Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots to transform Boston from “Beantown” to “Tittletown”, as the 3 teams have won a combined 6 championships in 6 years: Now, therefore, be it

(2) the Celtics, in winning a record 17th NBA World Championship, capped a remarkable, unprecedented single-season turnaround that captivated basketball fans across America and around the world; and

Passed the House of Representatives September 27,
2008.

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