

By: Representative Duffield

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE SIDNEY MONCRIEF FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO
HIS COMMUNITY, THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND THE NATION.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE SIDNEY MONCRIEF FOR HIS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS COMMUNITY, THE
STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND THE NATION.

WHEREAS, Sidney Moncrief is one of the greatest basketball players and community leaders in Arkansas history; and

WHEREAS, Sidney Moncrief was born in a housing project in rural western Little Rock on September 21, 1957, and was raised by his mother on her modest salary earned as a cleaning woman at Howard Johnson hotels; and

WHEREAS, despite prior desegregation orders and efforts, Little Rock was still racially segregated in many ways while Sidney Moncrief was growing up in the city; and

WHEREAS, Sidney Moncrief credits membership in a Boy Scouts of America troop and hard work in his family's garden with helping him escape being drawn into a life of crime in his rough neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Sidney Moncrief began playing basketball in grade seven (7) at Dunbar Junior High School, but did not make the varsity team until grade nine (9) at Booker Junior High School; and



WHEREAS, Sidney Moncrief made the varsity team at Hall High School and, as a senior, was named to several high school All-American teams; and

WHEREAS, Sidney Moncrief was recruited upon his high school graduation by Louisiana State University, Arkansas State University, and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, but he chose the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville because of its new coach, Eddie Sutton, who was ushering in novel ideas about how to play the game of basketball; and

WHEREAS, while the six-foot, four-inch (6'4") Sidney Moncrief played basketball at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, his signature playing style with team members Ron Brewer and Marvin Delph earned them the moniker "The Triplets" throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Sidney Moncrief and his teammates won the Southwest Conference Championship, and in 1978, the team made it to the Final Four bracket of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championship; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, after the Razorbacks lost a painfully close game to Indiana State University at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championship, Larry Bird of the Indiana State University team, later to be famed as a power forward for the Boston Celtics, praised Sidney Moncrief as having strength, perfect form, and a great understanding of the game of basketball; and

WHEREAS, Sidney Moncrief was the first basketball player in University of Arkansas at Fayetteville history to have his jersey number retired, and, along with Corliss Williamson, is one (1) of only two (2) basketball players in University of Arkansas at Fayetteville history ever to be so honored; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science in physical education, Sidney Moncrief entered the National Basketball Association draft and was chosen fifth overall and as the first-round draft pick of the Milwaukee Bucks; and

WHEREAS, during his ten (10) years playing for the Milwaukee Bucks,

Sidney Moncrief averaged sixteen and seven-tenths (16.7) points per game and over fifty percent (50%) in field goal percentage, and he was twice named the National Basketball Association's Defensive Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, a Milwaukee newspaper poll overwhelmingly ranked Sidney Moncrief as the favorite Milwaukee Bucks player of all time, beating out even such legendary players as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Oscar Robertson; and

WHEREAS, legendary professional basketball player Michael Jordan said of Sidney Moncrief, "He'll hound you everywhere you go, both ends of the court. You just expect it"; and

WHEREAS, after coming out of retirement to play one (1) season with the Atlanta Hawks before fully retiring from the National Basketball Association, Sidney Moncrief bought Buick dealerships in North Little Rock and Pine Bluff and also worked for the Dallas Mavericks, the Golden State Warriors, and the Milwaukee Bucks in various coaching capacities; and

WHEREAS, in his professional life after his professional basketball career, Sidney Moncrief also operates the Back 2 Basics All-Star Basketball Academy for youth and coaches to provide skills and wellness training and was the head coach of the Fort Worth Flyers of the National Basketball Developmental League as well as the head coach at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; and

WHEREAS, Sidney Moncrief has also been part of the broadcast team for the Milwaukee Bucks for Fox Sports Network Wisconsin, and in 2017 he and his wife launched the Moncrief Career Professional Development Center in Little Rock; and

WHEREAS, Sidney Moncrief was elected to the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame in 1993, the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998, and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2019; and

WHEREAS, while attending the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, Sidney Moncrief married his wife Debra with whom he has four (4) sons; and

WHEREAS, Sidney Moncrief is renowned as an Arkansas community and professional leader, brought great renown to the State of Arkansas through his mastery of the game of basketball, and remains one of the most beloved and respected citizens of the State of Arkansas,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize Sidney Moncrief for his contributions to his community, the State of Arkansas, and the nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided to Sidney Moncrief by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.