

By: Senators M. Johnson, Gilmore

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS AND
NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION STAR SCOTTIE PIPPEN
FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AND FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS
COMMUNITY, THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE NATION, AND THE
WORLD.

Subtitle

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ASSOCIATION STAR SCOTTIE PIPPEN FOR HIS
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WHEREAS, Scottie Pippen is one of the most talented and successful athletes from the State of Arkansas, and one of the most talented and successful athletes ever to play the game of basketball; and

WHEREAS, Scottie Pippen was born on September 25, 1965, in Hamburg, Arkansas, to Preston and Ethel Pippen, and he was the youngest of their twelve (12) children; and

WHEREAS, Scottie Pippen played baseball, football, and basketball as a child, but he most wanted to imitate basketball stars such as Julius "Dr. J" Erving despite the fact that Pippen was only six feet, one inch (6'1") tall and one hundred fifty pounds (150 lbs.) as a high school senior; and



WHEREAS, Scottie Pippen led Hamburg High School to the state basketball playoffs and was named to the all-conference team, but no colleges recruited him or offered him a basketball scholarship at that time, yet he was offered a position with the basketball team at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway as student manager of the team; and

WHEREAS, during his four (4) years at the University of Central Arkansas, Scottie Pippen grew to six feet, eight inches (6'8") tall and two hundred ten pounds (210 lbs.), and he grew in skill and experience as a basketball player because the team allowed him to play all five (5) positions on the team; and

WHEREAS, the University of Central Arkansas won conference championships during Scottie Pippen's junior and senior years, and he was twice voted onto the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes All-America team; and

WHEREAS, Scottie Pippen was selected in the first round as the fifth overall pick in the 1987 National Basketball Association draft and was immediately traded to the Chicago Bulls as part of a deal because the Bulls desired Pippen's unique skills; and

WHEREAS, Scottie Pippen quickly became an essential member of the Chicago Bulls team, and, like his sensational teammate Michael Jordan, Pippen excelled in all aspects of the game; and

WHEREAS, Scottie Pippen and Michael Jordan were the only players on the Chicago Bulls team to participate in both strings of Chicago Bulls team championships from 1991 through 1993 and from 1996 through 1998; and

WHEREAS, during his professional basketball career, Scottie Pippen scored eighteen thousand nine hundred forty (18,940) points, earned six thousand one hundred thirty-five (6,135) assists, and secured two thousand three hundred seven (2,307) steals; and

WHEREAS, Scottie Pippen also set Chicago Bulls records for the most

three-point baskets made at six hundred sixty-four (664) for which he is still ranked in the top five (5), and he still holds the position for third-highest rebounds recorded at five thousand seven hundred twenty-six (5,726); and

WHEREAS, few professional basketball players have contributed to their team's success in as many different ways as Scottie Pippen did, and he often played with the team despite pain and injury, most notably in 1998 when he withstood a painful back injury to help the Chicago Bulls win the final game of the championship series against the Utah Jazz; and

WHEREAS, following his time with the Chicago Bulls, Scottie Pippen played one (1) season with the Houston Rockets and four (4) seasons for the Portland Trail Blazers before returning to Chicago to play his final year in the National Basketball Association with the Chicago Bulls; and

WHEREAS, in all but one (1) year of Scottie Pippen's seventeen-year professional basketball career, the team he played for made the playoffs; and

WHEREAS, during his professional basketball career, Scottie Pippen was named to the National Basketball Association All-Star team seven (7) times, and he won six (6) National Basketball Association championships, all with the Chicago Bulls; and

WHEREAS, Scottie Pippen won gold medals in the 1992 and 1996 Summer Olympics on the United States "Dream Team" basketball team; and

WHEREAS, during the 1996-1997 season, Scottie Pippen was named one (1) of the fifty (50) greatest players in National Basketball Association history; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, and he is one of the few two-time inductees, having been inducted once for his National Basketball Association career and once for his time on the Olympic "Dream Team"; and

WHEREAS, following his professional basketball career, Scottie Pippen has been a studio analyst in television broadcasts, been in many advertisements, and portrayed himself in guest appearances on television programs, and he also played for Scandinavian professional basketball teams in 2008 and has since served as an overseas ambassador for the National Basketball Association; and

WHEREAS, Scottie Pippen's number thirty-three (33) basketball jersey was retired by both the University of Central Arkansas and the Chicago Bulls, and he is one (1) of only four (4) players to have his jersey retired by the Chicago Bulls; and

WHEREAS, Scottie Pippen is the father of five (5) children and in 1997 wrote an autobiography for children titled "Reach Higher", and he hosts basketball camps for Arkansas children; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Scottie Pippen was named senior advisor to the Chicago Bulls' president and chief operating officer; and

WHEREAS, although Scottie Pippen never won a National Basketball Association championship while Michael Jordan was not his teammate, neither did Michael Jordan ever win such a championship while Scottie Pippen was not his teammate, and Jordan said of Pippen, "I know [Scottie Pippen] makes me a better player. Unfortunately, it may take a while, after we both retire, for people to realize just how good Scottie Pippen really was"; and

WHEREAS, Scottie Pippen was featured in the popular 2020 ten-part Netflix docuseries "The Last Dance", which focused on the Chicago Bulls' dominance of basketball in the 1990s, and in November 2021, he released his memoir, "Unguarded"; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2021, the basketball court inside the University of Central Arkansas Farris Center was dedicated in Scottie Pippen's honor, and the court features his name and signature; and

WHEREAS, at the June dedication of the basketball court, Scottie Pippen

said of his career and life, "The hard work that I put in over the years, my dedication to the game . . . this just gives me an opportunity to leave a legacy behind. It's a great feeling . . . You dream of playing the game and being the best at it. To be able to have other people look upon your game, what you've done over your career, is special, to be honored this way. And I'm just truly grateful for it . . . I came here and I worked very hard, spent a lot of time in this gym and in the weight room . . . I wanted to be remembered when I left here and this is a great way of being honored for it . . . This university gave me the opportunity [to play in the National Basketball Association], and I took advantage of it. And every day, I'm thankful for that opportunity . . . the University of Central Arkansas has been a guide in my life. This is my family",

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the Senate recognize University of Central Arkansas and National Basketball Association star Scottie Pippen for his achievements and for his contributions to his community, the State of Arkansas, the nation, and the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to Scottie Pippen by the Secretary of the Senate.