

By: Senator K. Hammer

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE THE BENTON HIGH SCHOOL PANTHERS BOYS'
BASKETBALL TEAM AS THE CLASS 5A STATE CHAMPIONS.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE THE BENTON HIGH SCHOOL
PANTHERS BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM AS THE
CLASS 5A STATE CHAMPIONS.

WHEREAS, the Benton High School Panthers boys' basketball team won the Class 5A state championship held at Bank OZK Arena in Hot Springs, Arkansas, on March 14, 2025; and

WHEREAS, this was the Panthers' first state championship win in basketball; and

WHEREAS, the Panthers beat rival Maumelle by a score of fifty-eight (58) to fifty-seven (57) points; and

WHEREAS, a successful layup with fewer than four (4) seconds remaining by team member Terrion Burgess clinched the state championship victory for the Panthers; and

WHEREAS, the Panthers' overall season record was thirty-one wins and three losses (31-3); and

WHEREAS, the Panthers are also back-to-back Class 5A South Conference champions; and



WHEREAS, the Panthers' conference record for the last two (2) years was thirty-two wins and zero losses (32-0); and

WHEREAS, during the 2024-2025 conference season, the Panthers outscored their opponents by one thousand one hundred ninety (1,190) points to six hundred thirty (630) points, and averaged a thirty-five-point win in each game; and

WHEREAS, the Panthers set school records for most wins with twenty-nine (29) wins during the 2023-2024 season and thirty (30) wins during the 2024-2025 season; and

WHEREAS, the 2024-2025 team members for the Panthers are Peyton Bolding, Terrion Burgess, Carson Douglas, Pratt Fulks, A.D. Gray, Michael Hendrix, Jack Hope, Chris Johnson, Xavier Jones, Caleb Knight, Jeremiah Lea, Harrison Pickett, Javarious Russell, Elem Shelby, Braden Smith, Anthony Spratt, Jr., and D.J. Trotter, and team managers are Henk Geimer and Will Sams; and

WHEREAS, team member Terrion Burgess earned All-State Honors and was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament; and

WHEREAS, team member Harrison Pickett earned All-State Honors and was named to the All-State Tournament Team, and he signed a Division 1 scholarship with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, making him one (1) of only a few students in school history to have signed with a Division 1 university; and

WHEREAS, team member Anthony Spratt, Jr., earned All-State Honors, and is the first freshman in school history to do so; and

WHEREAS, team member Elem Shelby earned All-Conference Honors and was named to the All-State Tournament Team; and

WHEREAS, team members Javarious Russell, Caleb Knight, and A.D. Gray

all earned All-Conference Honors; and

WHEREAS, the Panthers were led by Head Coach Dexter Hendrix and Assistant Coaches Tyler Gattin, Terry Burgess, Kendrick Smith, and Luke Flowers; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Dexter Hendrix was honored as the Class 5A South Conference Coach of the Year during both the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 seasons; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Dexter Hendrix said of the win and the season, "This season was truly remarkable. This team set a new school record for the most wins in a single season, achieving an impressive thirty-one victories. They also secured back-to-back conference championships, extending their conference winning streak to thirty-two games. Their resilience and determination throughout the year were exceptional, and I couldn't be prouder of the way they concluded the season. This team will forever be etched in the history of Benton High School as the first to win a state championship",

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the Senate recognize the Benton High School Panthers boys' basketball team as the Class 5A state champions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to Head Coach Dexter Hendrix by the Secretary of the Senate.