



HR0204

LRB104 12869 MST 24256 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) Cougars men's basketball team for achieving the program's first appearance in the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament, commonly known as March Madness and The Big Dance; and

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WHEREAS, The Cougars earned a coveted spot in the NCAA tournament by winning their first Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) tournament championship as the #2 seed, upsetting the #1 seed, the Southeast Missouri State University Redhawks, in a resounding 69 to 48 victory in the conference tournament championship game; and

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WHEREAS, The Cougars' journey to the NCAA tournament showcased exceptional teamwork, dedication, and resilience, reflecting the spirit of competitive excellence; and

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WHEREAS, The players, coaches, and support staff of the SIUE Cougars have brought immense pride and recognition to the university and the entire State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Their achievement serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes and demonstrates the power of hard work and

21

1 perseverance; and

2 WHEREAS, The SIUE Cougars' participation in the NCAA  
3 tournament provides a platform to showcase the talent and  
4 spirit of Illinois collegiate athletics on a national stage;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The Cougars roster includes players Ring Malith,  
7 Jordan Pickett, Desmond Polk, Ray'Sean Taylor, Darrion Baker,  
8 Declan Dillon, Jordan Hamilton, Brian Taylor II, Raynard  
9 Horry, Myles Thompson, Cham Okey, Kyle Thomas, Jo Valrie,  
10 Arnas Sakenis, and Eddiean Tirado; and

11 WHEREAS, The Cougars coaching staff is led by Head Coach  
12 Brian Barone and features assistant coaches Colin Schneider,  
13 Ryan Hellenthal, Angres Thorpe, Jay Bradley, and Mike Waldo,  
14 as well as support staff members Connor Piskin, Romello  
15 Wilbert, and Aidan Hall; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
17 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
18 we congratulate the SIUE Cougars men's basketball team on its  
19 outstanding victory in the Ohio Valley Conference tournament  
20 and its qualification for the 2025 NCAA Division I Men's  
21 Basketball Tournament; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we commend the players, coaches, and  
2 support staff for their dedication, hard work, and  
3 sportsmanship; and be it further

4           RESOLVED, That we extend our best wishes to the SIUE  
5 Cougars for a successful and memorable appearance in the NCAA  
6 tournament; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
8 presented to SIUE Chancellor Dr. James T. Minor, Athletic  
9 Director Andrew Gavin, and the SIUE Cougars men's basketball  
10 team as a symbol of our respect and esteem.