



## State of Tennessee

### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 433

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION recognizing head coach Lionel Hollins and the members of the Memphis Grizzlies basketball team.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those sports teams which, through the prowess and abilities of their members, have successful seasons; and

WHEREAS, in the 2010-2011 season, the Memphis Grizzlies basketball team reminded its fans and hometown what it means to fight the tide when they rose from being the lowest-seed in the playoff conference to beat the top-seeded San Antonio Spurs in round one; and

WHEREAS, while waters of the swollen Mississippi River rose over their hometown, the everlasting spirits of the team and fans rose even higher to remind Memphis that adversity is no match for perseverance; and

WHEREAS, under the passionate leadership of head coach Lionel Hollins, the Grizzlies beat the odds and prevailed, not only winning their first playoff game in the history of the team but also continuing their triumphant streak into the second round of the semifinal championship; and

WHEREAS, during game three of the Thunder series, the Grizzlies were trailing when 18,119 fans defiantly held up "Believe Memphis" towels in a resilient expression of faith in their team and city; and

WHEREAS, the Grizzlies finished the season with forty-six wins to only thirty-six losses, a .561 winning percentage, a record due in part to the passion and unwavering determination shown by the players, coaches, fans, and the City of Memphis as a whole; and

WHEREAS, *Memphis Commercial Appeal* contributor Geoff Calkins wrote, "I believe it's about more than basketball. I believe in Memphis, in its people, and in its ability to surmount its problems with faith, joy and hard work. I believe that spirit was perfectly reflected in the Grizzlies basketball team."; and

WHEREAS, the FedExForum Arena, also referred to by supporters of the team as "The Grind House," provided the stage for fans to join together as a diverse community of unwavering spirits and stand as a beacon to the memory of an unforgettable moment in the history of the Grizzlies, the City of Memphis, and the State of Tennessee as a whole; and

WHEREAS, victory could not have been achieved without the leadership of Mike Conley, the toughness of Zach Randolph, or the contributions of Tony Allen and Sam Young, along with the masterful play exhibited by their teammates, Darrell Arthur, Shane Battier, Marc Gasol, Rudy Gay, Hamed Haddidi, Xavier Henry, O.J. Mayo, Leon Powe, Ishmael Smith, and Greivis Vasquez; and

WHEREAS, Memphis Grizzlies owner, Mike Heisley remarked: "This is all great, but it's nothing compared to what I've already seen. To walk into FedExForum and see all those happy people, to walk out onto Beale Street and see the reaction of Memphians, that was my dream."; now, therefore,

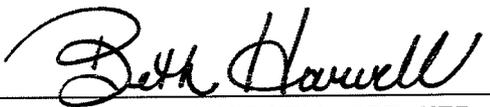
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby applaud the coaches, players, owners and staff of the Memphis Grizzlies upon the team's completion of its most successful season to date and extend our best wishes for the team's continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: May 20, 2011

  
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RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 2nd day of June 2011

  
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BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR