



HR0319

LRB101 12135 MST 59835 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Fourteen young men represented the Kaskaskia
3 College men's basketball team, the Blue Devils, at the 2019
4 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) national
5 tournament in what some would call a "Cinderella season" that
6 ended in Hutchinson, Kansas; and

7 WHEREAS, The 20-10 regular season record earned the Blue
8 Devils a #5 seed in the Region 24 tournament and matched them
9 in the first game against #4 seed Olney Central College, a team
10 that had defeated Kaskaskia College only once during the
11 regular season; the game ultimately ended in a 94-91 Kaskaskia
12 College victory; and

13 WHEREAS, The second opponent the Blue Devils faced was the
14 #1 seed Vincennes University, the Trailblazers, and with one
15 second left, a missed lay-up was tipped in to give the Blue
16 Devils a 78-76 victory over the Trailblazers; and

17 WHEREAS, The Blue Devils met Wabash Valley College in the
18 championship game, and there were ten lead changes and nine
19 ties before the game ended with a 68-66 Kaskaskia College
20 victory; this was the third victory in a row over a nationally
21 ranked team in which all three games were won by a total of
22 just seven points; and

1 WHEREAS, The Blue Devils secured an automatic bid for the
2 NJCAA national tournament by being District 16 and Region 24
3 champions; and

4 WHEREAS, In preparation for the national tournament, the
5 Blue Devils practiced two days at SIU Carbondale and stopped on
6 the drive to Hutchinson to practice at Kansas State University
7 in Manhattan, Kansas; and

8 WHEREAS, Kaskaskia College opened the tournament as the #20
9 seed and faced #13 Sheridan College from Wyoming; Sheridan
10 finished the regular season as the #11 nationally-ranked team
11 with a 31-3 record; the two teams faced off on Monday, March
12 13th at 6:30 pm, the game started fast and finished strong,
13 ending with a 92-80 Blue Devils victory; and

14 WHEREAS, Kaskaskia College's next game was played on
15 Wednesday, March 20th at noon against Coffeyville Community
16 College, Kansas, which finished the season as the #3
17 nationally-ranked team; the Blue Devils trailed 76-73 with 4.4
18 seconds left and executed a play with an open look at the top
19 of the key; the attempted shot was half way down and spun out
20 as time expired; that buzzer brought an end to a well fought
21 season, and Kaskaskia College finished the season at 24-11 with
22 a Sweet 16 showing at the national tournament; and

1 WHEREAS, Notable games throughout the season include the
2 December 9th overtime against Vincennes University; although
3 it ended in a 98-92 loss, this game played a key role in
4 preparing the Blue Devils for what lay ahead of them in the
5 remainder of the season; the team learned more about themselves
6 and what it would take to become champions as they moved
7 through the remainder of the schedule; and

8 WHEREAS, Their resolve showed as they handily defeated
9 Shawnee Community College by a score of 91-71, and they
10 finished the regular season with a 20-10 record; this was a
11 critical win as the Blue Devils earned the #5 seed in the
12 regional playoff and got a bye on Monday, March 4th; and

13 WHEREAS, Highlights of this season include, defeating
14 three nationally ranked teams in the regional tournament to
15 secure an NJCAA bid, defeating the 11th ranked team at the
16 national tournament, being ranked first in the NJCAA Tournament
17 in assists per game at 22, having a 11-7 record in the Great
18 Rivers Athletic Conference, and ranking 5th in the Region 24
19 Tournament; and

20 WHEREAS, The Blue Devils scored over 100 or more points in
21 five games, December 1 against Lake Land College with a 104-94
22 victory, December 6 against Lincoln College with a 102-77

1 victory, January 5 against Olney Central College with a 103-98
2 victory, January 26 against Southeastern Illinois College with
3 a 112-64 victory, and February 16 against Lincoln Trail College
4 with a 101-86 victory; and

5 WHEREAS, The 14 member team demonstrated poise and maturity
6 on the national stage, as they kept coming back time after time
7 and did not quit; the team members represent 11 home towns in
8 Illinois, including Champaign, Chicago, Grayslake, Joliet,
9 Salem, Patoka, East St. Louis, Centralia, Okawville, Milford,
10 and Cahokia, with four members being from the Kaskaskia College
11 District; other players came from Missouri, Florida, and New
12 Jersey; and

13 WHEREAS, All players on the team played exceptionally well;
14 Thomas Bell was recognized for his performance and chosen to be
15 an All-Region and All-Conference player; Parker Dortch was
16 recognized for his performance and chosen to be an
17 All-Conference and All-Region player and the MVP in the
18 Regional Tournament; Quin Nottingham was recognized for his
19 performance and chosen to be an All-Conference player; and

20 WHEREAS, Coach Brian Hancock was recognized as Coach of the
21 Year in the Region 24 Tournament and the District 16
22 Tournament; he was recognized by the Illinois Basketball
23 Coaches Association (IBCA) Men's Collegiate as the Co-Coach of

1 the Year; and

2 WHEREAS, The Blue Devils were supported by the Odin Pee Wee
3 basketball players, which consisted of a group of 3rd and 4th
4 grade basketball players; the Odin Pee Wee basketball players
5 parents and families began following the Blue Devils after the
6 team volunteered to coach and referee the 3rd and 4th All-Star
7 basketball tournament on February 24, 2019; the Odin team and
8 their families cheered the Blue Devils on to their regional
9 tournament victory and were in the front row of the gym
10 cheering the team on in the national tournament; a mother of an
11 Odin Pee Wee basketball player stated "For Parker Dortch to
12 invest his time to make my children and many children feel
13 special is a phenomenal feeling as a mother. Parker is a true
14 inspiration for our youth. He is a wonderful role model.
15 Kaskaskia College truly has an extraordinary athlete and
16 student who is truly a special person"; and

17 WHEREAS, The Blue Devils are Parker Dortch, Quin
18 Nottingham, Stone Parker, Jamal Thomas, Ryan Saunders, Dawson
19 Linder, Garrett Belcher, Jordan Maines, Jalen Williams, Shane
20 Ganz, Ifeoluwa Shoyoye, Jacob Thompson, La-Quiem Walker, and
21 Thomas Bell; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
23 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we congratulate the men who composed the Kaskaskia College
2 men's basketball team, the Blue Devils, and Coach Hancock and
3 Assistant Coach Sparks on an outstanding season, as the Blue
4 Devils won the hearts of many fans who cheered them on until
5 the very end; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
7 presented to Coach Brian Hancock, Assistant Coach Dan Sparks,
8 and all 14 members of the Kaskaskia College basketball team.