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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate the Illinois Wesleyan Women's basketball team on winning the NCAA Division III National Championship; and

WHEREAS, Illinois Wesleyan beat third-ranked George Fox University, 57-48, on March 17, 2012 at Hope College; the Titans, who had more losses entering the Final Four than the other 3 teams combined, won the tournament through their defense and the scoring of tournament MVP Olivia Lett; and

WHEREAS, Both teams shot 32% as Illinois Wesleyan beat George Fox in the national tournament for the second consecutive time; the Titans won a national quarterfinal matchup last season to reach their first Final Four; and

WHEREAS, Illinois Wesleyan (28-5) overcame a 48-43 deficit with 3 minutes, 46 seconds remaining; the Titans took the lead on a Melissa Gardner 3-pointer with 1:06 to go; Melissa set a Titans' single-season record for 3-pointers this year; and

WHEREAS, Olivia Lett, who netted a game-high 22 points, scored the final 6 points by making all of her free-throw attempts; and

1           WHEREAS, The Coach of the Titans is Mia Smith; the  
2 Assistant Coaches are Andrea Travelstead, Melanie Ward, Chad  
3 Cusac, and Tasha Gaston-Bell; the Titans are Brittany  
4 Hasselbring, Kasey Reaber, Melissa Gardner, Lexi Baltes,  
5 Colleen McMahon, Abbey White, Whitney Scurlock, Taylor Reaber,  
6 Michelle Bilek, Olivia Lett, Katy Seibring, Amy Burton, Karen  
7 Solari, Annie Brown, and Shelby Jackson; and

8           WHEREAS, Head Coach Mia Smith was named the 2012 Schelde  
9 North America/Women's DIII News "Coach of the Year"; she led  
10 the Titans to a 28-5 overall record and the 2012 Division III  
11 national championship; in her 14th season at Illinois Wesleyan,  
12 she has an overall record of 282-108 and is 145-51 in the  
13 College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (.725) with 6  
14 league championships and 7 NCAA Division III appearances; and

15           WHEREAS, Her 2011 team finished fourth in the nation; she  
16 has coached 5 All-Americans, including 2012 D3hoops.com  
17 "Player of the Year" Olivia Lett, 35 all-conference selections  
18 and 4 CCIW "Most Outstanding Players"; she has been the CCIW  
19 "Coach of the Year" 4 times, regional coach of the year 3  
20 times, and Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Division  
21 III "Coach of the Year" 3 times; therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
2 we congratulate the Illinois Wesleyan University Titans and  
3 Coach Mia Smith and wish them continued success in the future;  
4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to the Titans and to Coach Mia Smith as a symbol of  
7 our respect and esteem.