

By Representative Heyman

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution honoring the National Basketball
3 Association's Miami Heat on winning the NBA's
4 1997 Atlantic Conference Title and recognizing
5 the Miami Heat for its many contributions to
6 the citizens of Miami and the South Florida
7 area.

8
9 WHEREAS, since its entry into the National Basketball
10 Association in 1987, Miami's expansion franchise, the Miami
11 Heat, has quickly and steadily elevated its level of
12 performance beyond the expectations of most expansion
13 franchises in professional athletics, and

14 WHEREAS, now, under the guidance of one of professional
15 basketball's most revered and inspiring coaches, Pat Riley,
16 the Miami Heat has become a legitimate contender for the 1997
17 NBA Championship, and

18 WHEREAS, on April 10, 1997, the Miami Heat became the
19 NBA's Atlantic Division Champions for 1997, thereby winning
20 its first division title in franchise history, and

21 WHEREAS, on April 16, 1997, the Miami Heat achieved a
22 franchise milestone by becoming one of only 15 franchises in
23 NBA history to record 60 wins in a season, and

24 WHEREAS, the Miami Heat also have the distinction of
25 being the only team in the NBA to have defeated the 1996 NBA
26 Champion Chicago Bulls twice during the 1997 season, and

27 WHEREAS, having secured a second-place seed in the NBA
28 Eastern Conference Playoffs, the Miami Heat is approaching a
29 new level of competitive performance in its history as an NBA
30 franchise, and is poised to become a major force in
31 professional basketball, and

1 WHEREAS, since its inception, the Miami Heat has also
2 striven for a high level of achievement in the area of
3 community service, contributing in countless ways to the
4 growth and betterment of Miami and the South Florida community
5 through the organization's community enrichment programs, and

6 WHEREAS, over 200,000 children have benefited from the
7 Miami Heat's youth outreach initiatives, and

8 WHEREAS, assistance is provided to the entire South
9 Florida community through Miami Heat-sponsored community
10 outreach programs such as HEAT Family Outreach, the Heat's
11 Anti-Drug Program, and the Homeless Assistance Center, and

12 WHEREAS, during the 1996 season alone, the Miami Heat
13 Charitable Fund contributed more than \$400,000 to South
14 Florida charities, and

15 WHEREAS, the partnership and support shared by the
16 people of Miami and South Florida and the Miami Heat provides
17 a model for all professional sports franchises and the
18 communities in which they reside, NOW, THEREFORE,

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20 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
21 Florida:

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23 That the Florida House of Representatives hereby
24 congratulates the players and coaches of the Miami Heat on
25 winning the NBA's 1997 Atlantic Division title, and on
26 becoming one of only 15 franchises in NBA history to win 60
27 games in a season.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida House of
29 Representatives hereby recognizes and commends the players,
30 coaches, and staff of the Miami Heat for their many

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1 contributions to the citizens and community of Miami and the
2 South Florida area.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
4 be presented to Miami Heat Head Coach Pat Riley as a tangible
5 token of the sentiments expressed herein.

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