

By Senator Lawson

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution recognizing the accomplishments of the 2003-2004 Florida A & M University Men's Basketball Team.

WHEREAS, the Florida A & M University Rattlers, under the leadership of Head Coach Mike Gillespie, rebounded from a 1-10 start this year to post the school's second straight winning season in Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference play - the first time since 1991-1992 for such a feat, and

WHEREAS, the Rattlers defeated three of the top four seeds to win the 2004 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Basketball Tournament Championship in Richmond, Virginia, earning the school's first MEAC Tournament title since 1999, and

WHEREAS, the team also won the school's first-ever opening round NCAA Tournament game, a 72-57 win over Lehigh (Pa.) University in Dayton, Ohio, March 16, and

WHEREAS, the Rattlers went on to show tremendous fortitude and drive in pushing the top-ranked University of Kentucky Wildcats to the brink, before bowing out, 96-76, in the first round of the NCAA St. Louis Regional on March 19, and

WHEREAS, Florida A & M University also produced the nation's leading three-point shooter this year in senior guard Terrence Woods, who led the nation for 2 consecutive years and finished his career 11th all-time in NCAA Division One history in three-point shooting, and

WHEREAS, Terrence Woods brought further distinction to Florida A & M University by winning a nationally televised

1 three-point shootout over a field of seven major college
2 performers in San Antonio, Texas, on April 1, and

3 WHEREAS, Head Coach Mike Gillespie, Sr., has revived
4 the fortunes of Rattler Basketball, lifting the team from a
5 six-win season the year prior to his arrival to 41 victories,
6 an MEAC Tournament title, an NCAA Tournament win, and
7 back-to-back winning records in conference play for the first
8 time in 10 years, as well as a nearly 100 percent graduation
9 rate in 3 years at Florida A & M University, NOW, THEREFORE,

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11 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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13 That the Florida A & M University "Rattlers" 2003-2004
14 Men's Basketball Team and their Head Coach Mike Gillespie,
15 Sr., and his coaching staff are commended for their fine
16 achievements and for the honor and recognition they have
17 brought to the State of Florida.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
19 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Coach
20 Gillespie on behalf of the Florida A & M University Men's
21 Basketball Team as an expression of the sentiments of the
22 Florida Senate.

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