

By Senators Gaetz and Evers

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the Pensacola State College
Lady Pirates women's basketball team.

WHEREAS, the Pensacola State College Lady Pirates women's
basketball team recently competed in the National Junior College
Athletic Association National Championship Tournament in Salina,
Kansas, after spending most of the year ranked first in the
national polls, and

WHEREAS, the Pensacola State College Lady Pirates finished
the National Junior College Athletic Association National
Championship Tournament with a third-place national ranking, and

WHEREAS, the Pensacola State College Lady Pirates completed
the season with a phenomenal 35 wins and 1 loss, winning a
college record of 34 straight games and earning their first trip
to nationals since 1985, and

WHEREAS, the Pensacola State College Lady Pirates were
undefeated in regular season play in the Panhandle Conference
and in the Florida State College Athletic Association State
Championship Tournament, winning the Florida State Championship,
and

WHEREAS, Lady Pirates Coach Chanda Rigby was named
Panhandle Conference Coach of the Year and State of Florida
Coach of the Year for her outstanding leadership, and

WHEREAS, Lady Pirates player Jessica Merritt was named a
First-Team All-American, as well as First-Team All-State, All-
Conference, and Florida State Tournament Most Valuable Player,
and

WHEREAS, Lady Pirate player Meghan Perkins was named a

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30 First-Team All-American, was a member of the All-National
31 Tournament Team, and was named Player of the Year by the Florida
32 State College Athletic Association and Panhandle Conference
33 Player of the Year, as well as All-State, All-Panhandle
34 Conference Player, and was an All-State Tournament Player, and

35 WHEREAS, the Pensacola State College Lady Pirates
36 represented this state in the National Junior College Athletic
37 Association National Tournament with wins over Malcolm X
38 College, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, and Northern Oklahoma
39 Community College, losing only to Northern Idaho Community
40 College, and

41 WHEREAS, Pensacola State College Lady Pirates players
42 Brandy Broome, Meghan Perkins, Jessica Merritt, Ashley Olvera,
43 Natalie Burke, Tawanna Lee, Najat Ouardad, Patricia Bright,
44 Darnisha Hamilton, Jenisha Jackson, and Karneshia Garrett
45 represented Pensacola State College, the Florida Panhandle
46 Conference, and the State of Florida with outstanding athletic
47 teamwork, superior sportsmanship, and collegiate distinction,
48 and

49 WHEREAS, Lady Pirates Karneshia Garrett, Najat Ouardad,
50 Meghan Perkins, and Jessica Merritt were named to the All-
51 Panhandle Conference Team, with Lady Pirates Brandy Broome,
52 Tawanna Lee, Ashley Olvera, and Darnisha Hamilton named to the
53 All-Panhandle Conference Second Team, and

54 WHEREAS, the success of the Lady Pirates basketball team
55 would not have been possible without the dedication and
56 enthusiastic support of Assistant Coaches Kayla Ard and LaToya
57 Thomas, staff members Verdine Warner, Deb Lee, Marcie Grace, and
58 John Noski, Pensacola State College Athletic Director Bill

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59 Hamilton, Pensacola State College President Ed Meadows, Student
60 Services Vice President Tom Gilliam, Pensacola State College
61 cheerleaders Emily L. Burkett, Showalter D. Cooper, Rebecca A.
62 Fenn, Kelsey L. Gibson, Ariel A. Henry, Bradley M. NeSmith,
63 Patricia L. Pyle, Holly C. Spencer, Porscha R. Tucker, and
64 Lindsey L. Yeagle, Cheerleading Coach La Rita J. Carter, and all
65 Pensacola State College Lady Pirates basketball fans from
66 Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, NOW, THEREFORE,

67

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

69

70 That the members of the Florida Senate recognize the
71 Pensacola State College Lady Pirates women's basketball team for
72 a championship season and do hereby commend the players,
73 coaches, and staff for their outstanding play in the National
74 Junior College Athletic Association National Championship
75 Tournament.