

By Senator Berman

26-03558-23

20231734\_\_

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing and celebrating the incredible accomplishments of the Florida Atlantic University men's basketball team and the university's commitment to both academic and athletic excellence, creating a collegiate brand that is nationally renowned.

WHEREAS, based in Boca Raton, Florida Atlantic University (FAU) is a public research university within the State University System with an outstanding track record of providing access, excellence, and social mobility to its diverse student body located across six campuses spanning 110 miles of the Southeast Florida coastline, and

WHEREAS, the FAU men's basketball team, the Owls, was established in 1988 and joined Division I in 1993, where they first held membership with the ASUN Conference, previously known as the Trans America Athletic Conference, and

WHEREAS, FAU moved to the Sun Belt Conference in 2004 and to Conference USA in 2013, and will join the American Athletic Conference in July 2023, and

WHEREAS, the FAU men's basketball team achieved a final overall record of 35-4 for the 2023 season, the best in team history, and

WHEREAS, FAU's 20-game winning streak was not only a school record, but the longest of any team in the nation during the 2023 season, and

WHEREAS, FAU entered the AP Top 25 College Basketball Poll for the first time in school history, reaching 19th in the

26-03558-23

20231734\_\_

30 nation, and

31 WHEREAS, FAU began the NCAA tournament as the No. 9 seed,  
32 the team's second appearance in tournament history and its first  
33 in 21 years, and

34 WHEREAS, FAU defeated Memphis 66-65 for its first  
35 tournament win in team history, capped by a Nick Boyd score with  
36 2.5 seconds remaining and Giancarlo Rosado leading the team with  
37 15 points, and

38 WHEREAS, FAU defeated Fairleigh Dickinson University 78-70,  
39 led by Johnell Davis's 29-point, 12-rebound, 5-assist, and 5-  
40 steal performance, and

41 WHEREAS, FAU defeated No. 4 seed University of Tennessee  
42 62-55 at Madison Square Garden, thanks to a second-half push led  
43 by Michael Forrest's 8-0 run, which gave FAU its first lead  
44 since the opening minute of the game, and

45 WHEREAS, FAU defeated No. 3 seed Kansas State University  
46 79-76 at Madison Square Garden, with a well-rounded performance  
47 featuring 14 points from Vladislav Goldin, 13 points from  
48 Johnell Davis, 17 points from Alijah Martin, and 16 points from  
49 Bryan Greenlee, and

50 WHEREAS, FAU made its first-ever Final Four, one of nine  
51 teams to ever make it as a No. 9 seed or below, and one of five  
52 teams to make it after entering without a previous tournament  
53 win, and

54 WHEREAS, FAU valiantly fell 72-71 to San Diego State  
55 University off a last-second buzzer beater at NRG Stadium in  
56 Houston, despite Alijah Martin's 26-point, 7-rebound, and 1-  
57 steal game, and

58 WHEREAS, FAU's Final Four appearance will likely have long-

26-03558-23

20231734\_\_

59 lasting positive impacts for the university, its athletic  
60 programs, and this state, NOW, THEREFORE,

61

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

63

64 That the incredible accomplishments of the Florida Atlantic  
65 University men's basketball team are recognized and celebrated,  
66 as is the university's commitment to both academic and athletic  
67 excellence, creating a collegiate brand that is nationally  
68 renowned.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate congratulates team  
70 members Leo Beath, Nicholas Boyd, Tre Carroll, Johnell Davis,  
71 Michael Forrest, Jalen Gaffney, Isaiah Gaines, Vladislav Goldin,  
72 Bryan Greenlee, Jack Johnson, Brenen Lorient, Alijah Martin,  
73 Alejandro Ralat, Giancarlo Rosado, and Brandon Weatherspoon on  
74 their teamwork, blazing new trails for the FAU men's basketball  
75 program.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate recognizes the  
77 diligent work of Head Coach Dusty May, along with Assistant  
78 Coaches Todd Abernethy, Kyle Church, and Drew Williamson,  
79 Assistant to the Head Coach Brandon Gilbert, and Director of  
80 Operations KT Harrell, in shaping the Owls into a team of  
81 winners who defy expectations.

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate also recognizes the  
83 university staff who contribute to the operation of the  
84 basketball facility and to the overall success of the team and  
85 the university and the extraordinary efforts of all involved in  
86 the accomplishments of the FAU 2022-2023 men's basketball team.