

HR 8065

2023

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing and celebrating the
3 incredible accomplishments of the Florida Atlantic
4 University men's basketball team.
5

6 WHEREAS, based in Boca Raton, Florida Atlantic University
7 (FAU) is a top public university that strives to advance its
8 nearly 500 student athletes in their respective sports and the
9 classroom, and

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, FAU's 20-game winning streak was not only a school
21 record, but the longest of any team in the nation during the
22 2023 season, and

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

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

29 WHEREAS, FAU defeated Memphis 66-65 for its first
30 tournament win in team history, capped by a Nick Boyd score with
31 2.5 seconds remaining and Giancarlo Rosado leading the team with
32 15 points, and

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

36 WHEREAS, FAU defeated No. 4 seed University of Tennessee
37 62-55 at Madison Square Garden, thanks to a second-half push led
38 by Michael Forrest's 8-0 run, which gave FAU its first lead
39 since the opening minute of the game, and

40 WHEREAS, FAU defeated No. 3 seed Kansas State University
41 79-76 at Madison Square Garden, with a well-rounded performance
42 featuring 14 points from Vladislav Goldin, 13 points from
43 Johnell Davis, 17 points from Alijah Martin, and 16 points from
44 Bryan Greenlee, and

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

49 WHEREAS, FAU valiantly fell 72-71 to San Diego State
50 University off a last-second buzzer beater at NRG Stadium in

51 Houston, despite Alijah Martin's 26-point, 7-rebound, and 1-
 52 steal game, and,

53 WHEREAS, FAU men's basketball team members Leo Beath,
 54 Nicholas Boyd, Tre Carroll, Johnell Davis, Michael Forrest,
 55 Jalen Gaffney, Isaiah Gaines, Vladislav Goldin, Bryan Greenlee,
 56 Jack Johnson, Breneen Lorient, Alijah Martin, Alejandro Ralat,
 57 Giancarlo Rosado, and Brandon Weatherspoon worked together to
 58 overcome the odds and make it to the Final Four, and

59 WHEREAS, the diligent work of Head Coach Dusty May, along
 60 with Assistant Coaches Todd Abernethy, Kyle Church, and Drew
 61 Williamson, Assistant to the Head Coach Brandon Gilbert, and
 62 Director of Operations KT Harrell, helped shape the Owls into a
 63 team of winners who defy expectations, and

64 WHEREAS, the university staff, who contribute to the
 65 operation of the basketball facility and to the overall success
 66 of the team and the university and the extraordinary efforts of
 67 all involved in the accomplishments of the 2022-2023 FAU men's
 68 basketball team, were dedicated and supportive of the team,
 69 helping them achieve these accomplishments, and

70 WHEREAS, FAU's Final Four appearance will likely have long-
 71 lasting positive impacts for the university, its athletic
 72 programs, and this state, NOW, THEREFORE,

73
 74 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 75 Florida:

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That the Florida Atlantic University men's basketball team is recognized and congratulated for reaching the Final Four of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament after a historic regular season.