



HR0978

LRB104 22347 ECR 38790 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Jalen Brunson on being
4 awarded the Bill Russell Trophy as the 2026 NBA Finals Most
5 Valuable Player (MVP) after leading the New York Knicks to the
6 team's first NBA championship since 1973; and

7 WHEREAS, Jalen Brunson attended Adlai E. Stevenson High
8 School in Lincolnshire, where he became one of the most
9 decorated players in Illinois high school basketball history,
10 earning the Gatorade Illinois Player of the Year award in each
11 of his final two seasons, being named Illinois Mr. Basketball
12 as a senior, and earning three Associated Press Boys
13 Basketball All-State Team selections; and

14 WHEREAS, Jalen Brunson led the Adlai E. Stevenson High
15 School Patriots as a senior to the Illinois High School
16 Association (IHSA) Class 4A State Championship in 2015,
17 delivering the program's first-ever state title and cementing
18 his legacy as one of the greatest players in the school's
19 history; and

20 WHEREAS, Jalen Brunson continued his championship
21 excellence at Villanova University, where he helped the
22 Wildcats win national titles in NCAA men's basketball in both

1 2016 and 2018; he was also named the National College Player of
2 the Year as a junior in 2018, received the John Wooden Award,
3 the Naismith Award, and the Bob Cousy Award, and earned
4 All-Big East Conference honors three times across his
5 collegiate career; and

6 WHEREAS, Jalen Brunson was selected by the Dallas
7 Mavericks in the 2018 NBA Draft before signing with the New
8 York Knicks in 2022, and he quickly became the franchise
9 cornerstone, earning his first NBA All-Star Game selection in
10 2024 and leading the Knicks on a historic championship run in
11 2026; and

12 WHEREAS, In the 2026 NBA Finals against the San Antonio
13 Spurs, Jalen Brunson delivered one of the most dominant
14 performances in the history of the league's championship
15 series, averaging 32.6 points, 4.6 assists, and 4.2 rebounds
16 per game across five games, with all 11 members of the media
17 voting panel unanimously selecting him as NBA Finals MVP; and

18 WHEREAS, In Game 5 of the 2026 NBA Finals, Jalen Brunson
19 scored 45 points, including 15 points in the final eight
20 minutes of regulation, leading the Knicks to a 94-90 road
21 victory and to securing the championship, a performance that
22 matched Michael Jordan's record for the most points scored on
23 the road in a title-clinching game; and

1 WHEREAS, Jalen Brunson's journey from the hardwood of
2 Adlai E. Stevenson High School to an NBA championship embodies
3 the values of dedication, resilience, and excellence that make
4 all Illinoisans proud, and his achievement in winning
5 championships at the high school, collegiate, and professional
6 levels places him in the most elite company in the history of
7 basketball; and

8 WHEREAS, Jalen Brunson's remarkable career has brought
9 extraordinary pride to the Adlai E. Stevenson High School
10 community and the State of Illinois, and his accomplishments
11 will inspire young athletes across the State for generations
12 to come; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
14 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we congratulate Jalen Brunson on being awarded the Bill
16 Russell Trophy as the 2026 NBA Finals Most Valuable Player
17 (MVP) and for leading the New York Knicks to the 2026 NBA
18 Championship, and we commend the arc of his
19 championship-winning career, transcending the courts of Adlai
20 E. Stevenson High School and Villanova University to Madison
21 Square Garden; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to Jalen Brunson as a symbol of our esteem and
2 respect.