



HR0570

LRB103 38869 MST 69006 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Zion Mayor Billy McKinney on becoming the first Northwestern men's basketball player to have his jersey number retired; and

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WHEREAS, Mayor McKinney is considered by many to be the best player in Northwestern history; and

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WHEREAS, Mayor McKinney scored 1,900 career points, a school record that stood for 35 years, and led the Wildcats in scoring each season of his collegiate career; his 768 made field goals still stand as the program's all-time record; he earned All-Big Ten recognition in all of his four seasons and garnered First Team All-Conference and All-America honors as a senior when he averaged 21.3 points per game; a Wildcat has not made 17 or more field goal attempts in a game since he posted 37 points against Notre Dame in 1974; he was named the first three-time team MVP in program history from 1975-77, under head coach Tex Winter, who would later be the long-time assistant coach of the Chicago Bulls and Los Angeles Lakers; and

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WHEREAS, Mayor McKinney played eight years in the NBA (1978-85) with the Kansas City Kings, Utah Jazz, Denver

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1 Nuggets, San Diego Clippers, and Chicago Bulls; he was
2 nicknamed The Crazy Hummingbird and still holds the NBA
3 rookie record for most made field goals without a miss; and

4 WHEREAS, Mayor McKinney served as an executive and scout
5 in NBA front offices for over 30 years; while working as a
6 Bulls scout, he was the only scout to watch Scottie Pippen play
7 in Arkadelphia, Ark., guiding the team to trade for Pippen in
8 1987 and form one of the NBA's greatest dynasties with Michael
9 Jordan; he was the first African-American front office
10 executive in franchise history; and

11 WHEREAS, Mayor McKinney became the first general manager
12 of the expansion Minnesota Timberwolves in 1992 and later
13 worked as GM for the Detroit Pistons and the WNBA's Seattle
14 Storm; as the director of scouting for the Milwaukee Bucks, he
15 was instrumental in drafting Giannis Antetokounmpo in 2013;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Mayor McKinney has served as the mayor of his
18 hometown, Zion, since 2019; his family planted roots in Zion
19 in the summer of 1962, and he attended Elmwood Elementary
20 School, Central Middle School, and Zion-Benton Township High
21 School, where he was a 1973 Honor Roll student and graduate;
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1 WHEREAS, Mayor McKinney is still heavily involved with the
2 Northwestern men's program and is the team's radio color
3 analyst; the Northwestern University Department of Athletics
4 and Recreation annually presents The Billy McKinney Award to
5 the male student-athlete who has exhibited exemplary
6 leadership qualities; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we congratulate Zion Mayor Billy McKinney on becoming the
10 first Northwestern men's basketball player to have his jersey
11 number retired; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to Mayor McKinney as a symbol of our respect and
14 esteem.