

A RESOLUTION honoring the Buckhorn High School Wildcats for winning the 14th Region championship and making it to the Sweet Sixteen.

WHEREAS, occasionally in this Commonwealth a small school defies the odds and wins a championship, and in those instances this body should rightfully pause to reflect on the accomplishments of those schools and what they overcame in order to call themselves champions; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2016, at Knott County Central High School, the Buckhorn High School Wildcats defeated the Perry County Central Commodores 54-51 in overtime, clinching their first 14th Region championship since 1989 and sending them to Rupp Arena to compete in the Whitaker Bank/KHSAA Sweet Sixteen State Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Wildcats would go on to lose their opening-round game at Rupp Arena to Murray High School, but their exemplary season would see them win 19 games on their way to competing in one of the more historic games the small high school has ever seen in their thrilling regional win against Perry County Central; and

WHEREAS, Buckhorn, a small school of 340 students, reached its first Sweet Sixteen since Coach John Paul Amis took the Wildcats to the tournament in back-to-back seasons in the 1988 and 1989 campaigns. As these Wildcats made their run to Rupp, the city of Buckhorn, which is home to just 150 residents, and an entire Commonwealth stood together to commend their passion, grit, and tenacity as they accomplished what small schools all across the state of Kentucky dream of doing; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this honorable body congratulates the Buckhorn High School Wildcats on this day upon winning the 14th Region championship and making it to Rupp Arena to compete in the Whitaker Bank/KHSAA Boys' Sweet Sixteen. In so doing, it also commends Coach John Noble Sr. and his staff for the support they have given this team on and off the court; recognizes each and every player for his hard work and sacrifice for the good of the team; and grants all those seniors who are graduating best wishes as they continue on to a new and exciting chapter of their lives;

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby honor the Buckhorn High School Wildcats upon winning the 14th Region championship and making it to the 2016 Whitaker Bank/KHSAA Sweet Sixteen State Tournament, and congratulate the entire community of Buckhorn for how they have rallied behind these players and coaches during this magical run to Rupp Arena.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the Buckhorn Wildcats.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Brandon Smith for delivery.