
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 835 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY J. HARRIS, HENNESSEY, NEILSON, READSHAW, CONKLIN,
MILLARD, LONGIETTI, KINSEY, ROTHMAN, BARRAR, YOUNGBLOOD,
THOMAS, KIRKLAND, RABB, GAINNEY, BULLOCK, LEWIS, MURT,
MARSICO, KIM, WATSON, SOLOMON AND FITZGERALD, APRIL 16, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 16, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the 40th anniversary of Cheyney University's 1977-1978
2 men's Division II National Championship Basketball Team.

3 WHEREAS, Cheyney University is the oldest Historically Black
4 College and University in the nation and was founded "to
5 instruct the descendants of the African race in school learning,
6 in the various branches of the mechanic arts, trades and
7 agriculture, in order to prepare and fit and qualify them to act
8 as teachers"; and

9 WHEREAS, In March 1978, under the leadership of legendary
10 Naismith Hall of Fame Coach John Chaney, the Cheyney State
11 College's men's basketball team won the Division II National
12 Championship; and

13 WHEREAS, After compiling a 26-2 record leading up to the big
14 game in Springfield, Missouri, #4 Cheyney State College faced #1
15 Wisconsin Green Bay; and

16 WHEREAS, Cheyney defeated Wisconsin Green Bay by a score of

1 47-40 to be crowned the 1978 Men's Division II National
2 Champions; and

3 WHEREAS, That season, Cheyney opened the first Division II
4 poll as the #2 team in the nation behind Green Bay; and

5 WHEREAS, During the season, Cheyney won its sixth consecutive
6 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference title after it defeated
7 Slippery Rock by a score of 66-59; and

8 WHEREAS, The national championship team consisted of John
9 Butts, Duane Coleman, Milt Colston, Andrew Fields, Kenny Hinson,
10 Jeffrey Hutcherson, Roger Leysath, Gerald Mills, Charles Murphy,
11 Gilbert Saunders, Arthur Stone and John Walker; and

12 WHEREAS, Milt Colston was All-American that season and Andrew
13 Fields was the Tournament Most Valuable Player; and

14 WHEREAS, Cheyney's championship team was well-balanced with
15 four players averaging double figures for points per game.
16 Senior Guard Milt Colston led the pack with an average of 15.1
17 points per game, followed by senior Jeffrey Hutcherson averaging
18 13.4 points per game, sophomore Charles Murphy averaging 11.2
19 points per game and junior Andrew Fields averaging a double-
20 double with 11.2 points per game and 10.9 rebounds per game; and

21 WHEREAS, In addition to Coach John Chaney, the men's
22 basketball team was assisted by the late Charles Songster and
23 Athletic Trainer Joe Iezzi; and

24 WHEREAS, After the championship game, Coach John Chaney
25 summed up the team and its season wonderfully, "nobody ever pays
26 any attention to us. Our school is not in any community and we
27 don't have many fans. All we have is each other"; and

28 WHEREAS, On its way to the title, Cheyney's men's basketball
29 team defeated #15 Adelphi University, Thomas Jefferson
30 University, Sacred Heart and #2 Florida Tech, in addition to #1

1 Green Bay; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2018, Cheyney is celebrating the 40th anniversary
3 of its 1977-1978 national championship; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
5 40th anniversary of the historic Division II National
6 Championship won by the 1977-1978 Cheyney Wolves; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
9 the athletic department of Cheyney University at 1837 University
10 Circle, P.O. Box 200, Cheyney, Pennsylvania 19319.