

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 228

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Indiana Pacers' 1972–1973 American Basketball Association Championship and their third American Basketball Association Championship in 5 seasons.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 31 (legislative day, MAY 30), 2023

Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Indiana Pacers' 1972–1973 American Basketball Association Championship and their third American Basketball Association Championship in 5 seasons.

Whereas the Indiana Pacers were founded in 1967, as members of the American Basketball Association;

Whereas the Indiana Pacers won American Basketball Association Championships in the 1969–1970, 1971–1972, and 1972–1973 seasons and had 2 other championship appearances;

Whereas, during the seasons between 1970 and 1975, the Indiana Pacers averaged 51 wins per season;

Whereas Mel Daniels, Freddie Lewis, Roger Brown, and Billy Keller were members of all 3 Indiana Pacers championship teams;

Whereas the 1973 Indiana Pacers championship team had a strong native Hoosier presence on the team;

Whereas the 1973 Indiana Pacers championship team was built around George McGinnis, who attended George Washington Community High School in Indianapolis, Indiana, and later attended Indiana University;

Whereas Billy Keller attended George Washington Community High School in Indianapolis, Indiana, and later attended Purdue University;

Whereas Don Buse attended Holland High School in Holland, Indiana, and Evansville College in Evansville, Indiana;

Whereas, during the 1972–1973 season, Don Buse, a rookie, made several contributions, and Gus Johnson, a National Basketball Association veteran at the end of his career, was brought onto the team to bring bench strength and leadership;

Whereas the revived group finished with a 51 to 33 record after winning 11 consecutive games late in the 1972–1973 season, the fourth-best record in the league behind the Carolina Cougars and the Kentucky Colonels in the East and the Utah Stars in the West;

Whereas the Indiana Pacers took control of the 1972–1973 series by winning Game 4 on the home court of the Houston Rockets, as Billy Keller hit a game-winning 3-pointer from the left wing off a broken play with 14 seconds left for a 97 to 95 victory;

Whereas that shot gained historical value in passing years because William Robert “Slick” Leonard rose off the bench and shouted, “Boom, Baby!” as the ball dropped through the net;

Whereas “Boom, Baby!” would become William Robert “Slick” Leonard’s signature call as a broadcaster on every 3-pointer by the Indiana Pacers in following decades;

Whereas, on May 12, 1973, the Indiana Pacers beat the Kentucky Colonels 88 to 81 in Game 7 of the American Basketball Association Championship; and

Whereas that win gave the Indiana Pacers their third and final American Basketball Association title, the most titles held by a team in the history of the American Basketball Association: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2               (1) basketball has a rich history and passionate  
3       fan base in the Hoosier State and the Indiana Pac-  
4       ers have highlighted that rich history during the  
5       time in which they participated in the American  
6       Basketball Association; and

7               (2) the history of the Indiana Pacers and their  
8       storied legacy should be recognized, especially during  
9       2023, which marks the 50th anniversary of the Indi-  
10      ana Pacers’ third and last American Basketball As-  
11      sociation title and championship.

