

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the Warren Central High School Dragons, 2023
2 KHSAA Boys' Sweet Sixteen Basketball Champions.

3 WHEREAS, on March 18, 2023, before a crowd of 11,664 fans at Rupp Arena in
4 Lexington, the Warren Central High School Dragons defeated the Cardinals of George
5 Rogers Clark High School by a score of 64 to 60 to capture the 2023 Kentucky High
6 School Athletic Association (KHSAA) Boys' Sweet Sixteen Basketball Championship;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, in the championship game, a rematch from last year, the Dragons held
9 a 10-point lead after three quarters, then held off a furious Cardinal rally to avenge their
10 loss in 2023 with a balanced effort highlighted by three players, Damarion Walkup, Kade
11 Unsel, and Omari Glover, each scoring 17 points; and

12 WHEREAS, the state championship was for Warren Central was the second in
13 school history, with the Dragons having won the title in 2004; and

14 WHEREAS, the victory in the championship game was the capstone of a brilliant
15 season in which the Dragons compiled a record of 36 wins against a single loss, won their
16 last 27 games in a row, and outscored their opponents by an average of 23 points a game;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the Dragons were an incredibly well-balanced team in terms of
19 scoring, with all of the team's five starters, Chappelle Whitney, Kade Unsel, Damarion
20 Walkup, Omari Glover, and Izayah Villafuerte, averaging at least nine points per game
21 over the course of the season; and

22 WHEREAS, commenting on his team's selflessness, Dragons' Head Coach William
23 Unsel said, "They've shared the ball all year. Any of these guys could be somewhere
24 else and average 25 or 30 points a game. It's hard to guard when you have five really
25 good basketball players. I like playing teams when they have one or two"; and

26 WHEREAS, Chappelle Whitney was named the tournament's Most Valuable
27 Player, while Kade Unsel and Damarion Walkup were also named to the All-

1 Tournament Team; and

2 WHEREAS, other members of the Dragons included seniors Demetrius Barnett,
3 Malik Jefferson, and Tayvion Wells; juniors Braylon Boards, Abdihakim Dahir, Cadin
4 Hammer, and Elijah Starks; sophomore Jarek Kirk, and freshman Johan Pratt; and

5 WHEREAS, the Dragons were coached by Head Coach William Unseld, along with
6 Assistant Coaches Cedric Gumm, Ethan Meredith, Chris Porter-Bunton, and Leland R.
7 Taylor; and

8 WHEREAS, this Dragons team, with four senior starters, shook off the
9 disappointment of a runner-up finish last year and dedicated themselves to the
10 championship goal they achieved; and

11 WHEREAS, the talent, dedication, and resilience of the Warren Central Dragons
12 has resulted in these young men penning their names forever in the annals of Kentucky
13 high school basketball history, and it is fitting and proper that they be publicly
14 recognized;

15 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

18 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate join Senator David Givens in
19 congratulating the Warren Central Dragons and Coach William Unseld on winning the
20 2023 KHSAA Boys' Sweet Sixteen Championship, applauding their stellar play, and
21 wishing the team and coaches good fortune in all future endeavors.

22 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to
23 Senator David Givens for presentation to the team.