

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 18

By: Rozell, Aldridge, Coffee,
Fisher, Nichols, Shurden,
Branan, Brogdon, Cain, Capps,
Coates, Corn, Crutchfield,
Dunlap, Easley, Fair, Ford,
Gumm, Harrison, Helton, Hobson,
Horner, Johnson, Kerr, Laster,
Laughlin, Lawler, Leftwich,
Littlefield, Maddox, Milacek,
Monson, Morgan, Myers, Price,
Pruitt, Rabon, Reynolds, Riley,
Robinson, Smith, Snyder,
Taylor, Wilcoxson, Wilkerson,
Williams and Williamson

A Resolution congratulating the Northeastern State University Redmen Basketball team for winning the NCAA Division II National Championship; recognizing their many accomplishments; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Northeastern State University men's basketball team from Tahlequah, Oklahoma, won their first NCAA Division II National Championship on March 29, 2003, at Jenkins Arena in Lakeland, Florida. They set a school record for most wins in a season with their 32-3 final tally; and

WHEREAS, in their first appearance in a national title game, the Redmen defeated Kentucky Wesleyan College 75-64, a team that had been to six straight championship contests. The national victory, televised live on CBS, was Northeastern's first national championship in 67 years of basketball competition; and

WHEREAS, the Redmen, ranked seventh in the country headed into the tournament, advanced to the Division II Elite Eight in Lakeland, Florida, by winning the South Central Regional. In the national quarterfinals, Northeastern beat Nebraska-Kearney 94-75 aided by a 70% shooting performance. In the semifinals, NSU eliminated Queens University of Charlotte, North Carolina, 84-69 with six of the NSU players scoring in double figures; and

WHEREAS, as of March 29, 2003, Northeastern's 61 wins over the past two seasons was more than any other team in any NCAA Division. The University of Kansas was the closest with 59 wins; and

WHEREAS, Northeastern Redmen Head Basketball Coach Larry Gipson, in his sixth season at Northeastern State University, was named the Lone Star Conference Coach of the Year for the fifth time, South

Central Regional Coach of the Year, and National Coach of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate congratulates the Northeastern State University Redmen Basketball team and coaching staff for winning the Lone Star North Division Championship, the South Central Regional Championship, and the NCAA Division II National Championship, and proudly welcomes them to the Oklahoma State Capitol.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes the many accomplishments of the Northeastern State University Redmen Basketball coaching staff and team members in reaching this pinnacle of athletic achievement, becoming the first NCAA Division II Men's Championship basketball team in the State of Oklahoma to win this division.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Northeastern State University Redmen Basketball Head Coach Larry Gipson and President Larry Williams.

Adopted by the Senate the 9th day of April, 2003.

Presiding Officer of the Senate