

Reps. Cheeks, Pastor, Voorhees, Bieda, Brandenburg, Condino, Dennis, Farrah, Richardville, Sak, Spade, Waters, Emmons, Hager, Hopgood, Kolb, Kooiman, Law, Murphy, O'Neil, Stahl, Stallworth, Tobocman, Wojno, Adamini, Anderson, Brown, Caswell, Caul, Daniels, DeRossett, Elkins, Farhat, Gielegem, Gillard, Jamnick, Julian, Lipsey, Nitz, Paletko, Reeves, Rivet, Sheltroun, Shulman, Smith, Woodward and Zelenko offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 121.

A resolution honoring the Detroit Shock Basketball Team and Head Coach Bill Laimbeer upon winning their first Women's National Basketball Association Championship.

Whereas, With no starting players older than 28 and no player older than 29, the Detroit Shock are now among the WNBA elite as they defeated their rivals the New York Liberty and the Charlotte Sting to win the Eastern Conference Championship. The Shock became the first Eastern Conference team to finish the regular season with the best overall record and the first Eastern Conference team to win the title. Their play was based on teamwork, citizenship, dedication and unselfishness. The Shock set a league record with a 16-victory improvement over 2002; and

Whereas, A WNBA record-crowd of more than 22,000 saw the Shock defeat the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Sparks by a score of 83-78 in the third and final game of the finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills. This accomplishment was the first time in professional sports a team won the title after having the worst record in the league the previous season; and

Whereas, Detroit Shock Head Coach Bill Laimbeer was voted WNBA's Coach of the Year. He led the Shock to a league-best 25-9 record this season and worked tirelessly to instill energy and enthusiasm in the team; and

Whereas, Shock forward Cheryl Ford was selected WNBA Rookie of the Year. Ms. Ford became only the sixth player, and first rookie, in WNBA history to average a double double, 10.8 points and 10.4 rebounds, for a season; and

Whereas, Center Ruth Riley scored a career-high 27 points and was named Most Valuable Player of the Finals; and

Whereas, Deanna Nolan, a Flint native, Swin Cash and Cheryl Ford represented the Shock at the WNBA All-Star Game in July as a trio, a first for the team; and

Whereas, Coach Laimbeer's leadership, vision and integrity have earned him widespread acclaim and our deepest appreciation for leading the team to the title; now, therefore, be it;

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body honor and commend the Detroit Shock players, Coach Bill Laimbeer, staff and Detroit Shock management for their memorable accomplishments and winning their first Women's National Basketball Association Championship. We sincerely wish them continued success in all endeavors; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Detroit Shock organization as a token of our esteem.