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By:  Parker H.R. No. 1073

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The members of the girls' basketball team from Ponder High School distinguished themselves during the 2020-2021 season, advancing all the way to the semifinals of the University Interscholastic League 3A playoffs; and

WHEREAS, During the regular season, the Lady Lions compiled an outstanding record of 24 wins and 3 losses, including a perfect 14-0 tally in league play to claim the district title; Ponder then embarked on an exciting postseason run, defeating the teams from Dallas Madison, Pottsboro, Rains, and Winnsboro High Schools to reach the regional finals; and

WHEREAS, Squaring off against Gunter High School on March 2, Ponder relied on the same stout defense that it had specialized in all season long; the Lady Lions' suffocating full-court press surrendered just 10 points from the end of the first quarter to the start of the fourth, and when the final buzzer sounded, the team had claimed a decisive 42-29 victory, punching its ticket to the state tournament for just the second time in school history and the first time since 1998; and

WHEREAS, The Lady Lions faced Brownfield High School in the semifinals on March 6; in a thrilling game that went down to the wire, the Ponder players gave their all but ultimately fell short, ending their season with a record of 29-4; and

WHEREAS, Excelling with a true team effort, the Lady Lions received valuable contributions throughout the year from each member of the roster: Marlee Moynagh, Tate Wells, Kassi Ballard, Karly Ivy, Kenzie Crider, Riley Jackson, Everley Joplin, Chloe Poole, and Devyn Weiland; these dedicated athletes were ably guided by assistant coach Ellyn Avery and by head coach Jimmy Avery, who was honored prior to the state tournament as one of the top 100 girls' basketball coaches of all time; and

WHEREAS, Demonstrating a combination of exceptional talent and fierce determination, the Ponder Lady Lions turned in a memorable performance during the 2020-2021 campaign, and their success is a source of great pride to their many supporters in the local community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the Ponder High School girls' basketball team on advancing to the semifinals of the 2021 3A state playoffs and extend to the team's players, coaches, and staff sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the team as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.