

ORIGINAL HOUSE
JOINT RESOLUTION. HJ0002

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2016 BUDGET SESSION

A JOINT RESOLUTION recognizing the contributions of Kenny Sailors to the game of basketball and encouraging his election to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, Kenny Sailors was raised on a farm south of Hillsdale, Wyoming where he developed a jump shot playing against his taller brother Bud; and

WHEREAS, Kenny Sailors is widely attributed with inventing the jump shot; and

WHEREAS, Kenny Sailors used his jump shot to lead the University of Wyoming to the NCAA Basketball Tournament Championship in 1943 where the Wyoming Cowboys defeated the Georgetown Hoyas forty-six (46) to thirty-four (34); and

WHEREAS, after winning the NCAA Championship, the University of Wyoming played the National Invitational Tournament Champion St. John's Redmen in a Red Cross benefit game for the war effort. In that game the Wyoming Cowboys defeated St. John's by a score of fifty-two (52) to forty-seven (47), in Madison Square Garden; and

WHEREAS, beyond his individual accomplishments in those tournaments and in his career, Kenny Sailors displayed his perfected jump shot, which became iconic, as well described in "***The Origins of the Jump Shot***," (University of Nebraska Press, 1999, pp. 205-206) by author John Christgau:

"One shot by Kenny Sailors . . . remains historic He had stolen a pass and then raced down the left side of the floor At the top of the key, he cut to his right and then stopped suddenly and jumped. Courtside spectators in folding chairs watched as he seemed to rise up into the scoreboard Now, at the peak of his jump and hanging-in-the-air in Madison Square

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Garden, he drew a bead on the basket Just before he dropped his left hand away to release the shot, a photographer's flashbulb exploded silently. To the 18,056 fans who were watching, the flashbulb explosion seemed to freeze Kenny Sailors in the air, while beneath him men as floor-bound as statuary looked up in awe. Two weeks later Life Magazine ran a photo story of the game millions of young players saw that picture of Kenny's jump shot in Life, and that . . . began a chain reaction in basketball Everywhere young players on basketball courts began jumping to shoot."

WHEREAS, legends of the game of basketball have acknowledged that the jump shot forever changed the game and that Kenny Sailors' omission from the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame is inexplicable; and

WHEREAS, Kenny Sailors is on the list of nominees for induction in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame for 2016; and

WHEREAS, the legislature of the state of Wyoming is proud of its native son and his contributions to Wyoming and the game of basketball on a worldwide level.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

Section 1. That Kenny Sailors be recognized as the player most responsible for the use of the modern day jump shot used in the game of basketball at all levels, throughout the world.

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Section 2. That the absence of Kenny Sailors from the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame is an omission that is without justification.

Section 3. That Kenny Sailors should be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2016.

Section 4. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to Kenny Sailors' family and to the Board of Governors of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

(END)

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Governor

TIME APPROVED: _____

DATE APPROVED: _____

I hereby certify that this act originated in the House.

Chief Clerk