

By: Dearing

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 566  
(As Adopted by House and Senate)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING TONY  
2 BYRNE OF NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI, FOR HIS OUTSTANDING ATHLETIC  
3 RECOGNITION IN BEING VOTED MISS-LOU ATHLETE OF THE CENTURY.

4 WHEREAS, Tony Byrne, who was elected Mayor of Natchez,  
5 Mississippi, in 1968 and held that office until 1988, made  
6 football fields, basketball courts and football fields around  
7 Mississippi his own playground, setting state records in baseball  
8 and basketball at Natchez High School; and

9 WHEREAS, because of his accomplishments in the 1950's, Mayor  
10 Byrne was voted Miss-Lou Athlete of the Century by popular vote of  
11 the readers of the Natchez Democrat; and

12 WHEREAS, Tony Byrne was grace personified on the hardwood, as  
13 well as the gridiron, which is why he was All Big Eight in both  
14 sports while royally entertaining crowds playing both sports at  
15 Natchez High School; and

16 WHEREAS, Byrne is the only person to win a scoring title in  
17 football and basketball in the former Big Eight Conference, which  
18 was comprised of all of the big schools in Mississippi: in 1953,  
19 Byrne tallied 192 points in football, scoring a record 32  
20 touchdowns as a senior, and in 1954, as a basketball senior he led  
21 Natchez to its second straight league championship, scoring a  
22 record 716 points; and

23 WHEREAS, when Tony set the new Big Eight Conference standard  
24 for single-season touchdowns in 1953, he rushed for 781 yards on  
25 touchdown runs alone (that's 24.4 yards per touchdown); he scored  
26 4 touchdowns in 6 different games; he had 16 scoring runs of 20

27 yards or more; he had 11 scoring runs of 30 yards or more; he  
28 averaged 180 yards per game; on the season he had 1802 yards in 10  
29 games (that was 1170 yards rushing on 130 runs for a 9-yard  
30 average); obviously the 1953 football season was very special and  
31 exciting for Natchez High School fans; and

32 WHEREAS, Tony Byrne's basketball exploits are also legendary;  
33 he set a new Big Eight Conference single-game scoring standard of  
34 42 points and set a season scoring record of 716 points in a  
35 championship basketball season; and

36 WHEREAS, Tony plays excellent tennis in his retirement years,  
37 and says he appreciates more now the accomplishments he and his  
38 teammates achieved; and

39 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this  
40 individual, whose intense athleticism and civic pride brought  
41 honor to his school, his community and to the State of  
42 Mississippi:

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
44 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
45 we do hereby commend and congratulate Tony Byrne of Natchez,  
46 Mississippi, for his outstanding athletic recognition in being  
47 voted Miss-Lou Athlete of the Century, and wish him success in all  
48 his future endeavors.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
50 presented to Mayor Tony Byrne and be made available to the Capitol  
51 Press Corps.