

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Chamberlin

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 67

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING OLE MISS
2 BASKETBALL COACH ROD BARNES FOR BEING NAMED THE 2001 NAISMITH
3 NATIONAL MEN'S COACH OF THE YEAR AND THE SEC COACH OF THE YEAR.

4 WHEREAS, Ole Miss' Rod Barnes was named the 2001 Naismith
5 National Men's Coach of the Year, announced by the Atlanta Tipoff
6 Club; the award is Barnes' second National Coach of the Year
7 honor, as he was named CollegeInsider.com's recipient on March 11,
8 2001; and

9 WHEREAS, across the country, there are many outstanding
10 coaches who are doing incredible jobs with their teams and
11 programs, and for Coach Barnes to receive this award reflects on
12 everybody associated with the Ole Miss basketball program - the
13 players, assistant coaches and staff; and

14 WHEREAS, all Naismith award recipients will be honored at a
15 banquet in Atlanta in early April 2001; and

16 WHEREAS, Barnes was one of 20 finalists for the Naismith
17 National Coach of the Year Award, and one of three Southeastern
18 Conference coaches up for the honor; and

19 WHEREAS, Barnes was also named the SEC Coach of the Year by
20 the league's coaches, *Associated Press* and CollegeInsider.com; and

21 WHEREAS, this season, Barnes has guided the Rebels to a 27-8
22 overall record, an 11-5 SEC mark and the SEC Western Division
23 crown. The SEC West title was Ole Miss' third in the last five
24 years. Ole Miss, which was ranked No. 14 in the *Associated Press*
25 (AP) Top 25 poll and No. 13 in *ESPN/USA Today* Top 25 poll,
26 advanced to the SEC Championship Game against Kentucky, advanced
27 to its first-ever NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 appearance and met

28 No. 4 Arizona (25-7) in the Midwest Regional semifinals on Friday,
29 March 23, 2001, losing 65-55 in a very hard-fought game, televised
30 by CBS; the Rebels were the No. 3 seed, while Arizona was the No.
31 2 seed; and

32 WHEREAS, on February 17, 2001, Barnes won his 60th game as
33 the Rebel mentor and reached the 60-win milestone, the fastest of
34 any head coach in Ole Miss history. Barnes' 60th victory was a
35 67-61 win over South Carolina. Barnes' coaching record now stands
36 at 66-35; and

37 WHEREAS, Barnes played four seasons for the Rebel program
38 from 1984-1988. During his playing career, Barnes earned All-SEC
39 honors and All-America honorable mention accolades from *The*
40 *Sporting News* in 1988. He finished third in the coaches'
41 balloting for SEC Player of the Year in 1988; and

42 WHEREAS, the Naismith Awards, in their 33rd year, are given
43 in honor of the inventor of the game of basketball, Dr. James
44 Naismith. The awards program was founded by the Atlanta Tipoff
45 Club, an organization dedicated to recognizing the achievements of
46 student-athletes in basketball. The awards, including Men's and
47 Women's College Player of the Year, Men's and Women's Coach of the
48 Year, Male and Female Prep Player of the Year, and Men's and
49 Women's Official of the Year, are determined by a vote of the
50 Naismith Board of Selectors. In addition, the Board of Selectors,
51 comprised of a select group of leading basketball coaches,
52 journalists and administrators, honors a Men's and Women's
53 Outstanding Contributor to Basketball; and

54 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
55 outstanding accomplishments of this Mississippian who is a leader
56 in the game of college basketball, who makes the game so exciting
57 and brings honor to the University of Mississippi, his community
58 and to the State of Mississippi:

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
60 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Ole Miss

61 Rebel Basketball Coach Rod Barnes for being named the 2001
62 Naismith National Men's Coach of the Year and the SEC Coach of the
63 Year, and wish him and his outstanding group of student-athletes
64 continued success in future seasons.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
66 presented to Coach Rod Barnes and his family, Chancellor Robert
67 Khayat on behalf of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
68 Higher Learning, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.