

By: Representatives Mayo, Espy, Henderson

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 78

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 CLARKSDALE HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR ITS OUTSTANDING
3 2001-2002 SEASON AND FOR WINNING THE MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL
4 ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION (MHSAA) CLASS 4-A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, the Clarksdale High School Wildcats Football Team
6 finished the 2001-2002 season with a remarkable record of 13 wins
7 and only one loss; and

8 WHEREAS, throughout the regular season and playoffs, the
9 Wildcats fought and defeated many well-contended teams, and were
10 able to capture the Mississippi High School Activities Association
11 (MHSAA) Class 4-A State Championship by defeating South Pike by a
12 score of 13-0; and

13 WHEREAS, the Clarksdale High Wildcats have been the first and
14 only team in the history of Mississippi high school football to
15 reach the State Championship Game five consecutive years; and

16 WHEREAS, in addition to competing in five consecutive state
17 championship games, the Wildcats have won three of the five state
18 championship games, five division titles, five North State titles,
19 and were twice the runners-up for state champions; and

20 WHEREAS, many individual honors have been bestowed upon
21 various team members in recognition of their fine, dedicated and
22 superior play and hard work this season, including: the naming of
23 Darren Williams as the only player from Mississippi for the United
24 States Army High School All-American Bowl in 2001; the selection
25 of Darren Williams as All-State Team MVP; the naming of Darren
26 Williams to the Parade Magazine All-American Team; the selection
27 of Kenneth Kern, Fernando Matthews, Tremaine McBride and Moses
28 Sales to the All-State Team; the selection of Darren Williams,



29 Tremaine McBride, Fernando Matthews, Kenneth Kern, Larry Stokes,
30 Moses Sales, Ezell Ellington, Chris Jones, Jonathan King, Marcus
31 Cohen and Ricky Coleman to the All-Regional First Team; the naming
32 of Alton Maddox, Jeremy Williams, Fred Akines, Steve Laury,
33 Michael Self and Ricky Fields to the All-Regional Second Team; the
34 naming of Darren Williams as All-Regional Top Offensive player;
35 and Kenneth Kern as All-Regional Top Defensive Player; and

36 WHEREAS, in the five-year span of reaching the state
37 championship games, the Wildcats have posted a 62-8 record,
38 scoring 2,630 points while allowing only 604, placing 20 players
39 on the All-State Team, 18 players in the All-Star Game and 67
40 players on All-Division teams; and

41 WHEREAS, the Wildcats have not only excelled on the gridiron,
42 but in the classroom as well, boasting a roster of 40 players who
43 have earned academic and athletic college scholarships; and

44 WHEREAS, the Clarksdale High Wildcats have been superbly
45 coached and inspired by Head Coach Jesse Murphree and Assistant
46 Coaches Jimmy Jennings and Jim Hughes, who have broadened the
47 Wildcats' knowledge of the game and refined their skills in
48 execution; and

49 WHEREAS, Head Coach Jesse Murphree has brought additional
50 honor to himself and to Clarksdale High by being named Division 3
51 Coach of the Year in 1997, 1998 and 2002, and Mississippi Coach of
52 the Year in 2002; and

53 WHEREAS, Assistant Coaches Jimmy Jennings and Jim Hughes were
54 respectively named Division 3 Offensive and Defensive Coordinators
55 of the Year for five consecutive years; and

56 WHEREAS, the Clarksdale High Wildcats have been supported in
57 their athletic endeavors and attribute much of their success to
58 the many parents, fans and fellow peers whose moral and spiritual
59 encouragement have remained fervent throughout the season; and

60 WHEREAS, the Wildcats team has set school records in most
61 yards rushing, most touchdowns scored, most points scored, and



62 fewest points allowed in the history of football at Clarksdale
63 High; and

64 WHEREAS, the Wildcats have developed a winning and
65 cooperative spirit and a high degree of sportsmanship, and their
66 activities and attitude reflect great credit upon the individual
67 players and their coaches and bring honor to Clarksdale High; and

68 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
69 and commend excellence, especially when evidenced by the youth of
70 our state, who are its future:

71 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
72 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
73 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the Clarksdale
74 High School Wildcats Football Team and their coaches, Head Coach
75 Jesse Murphree, and Assistant Coaches Jimmy Jennings and Jim
76 Hughes for their phenomenal 2001-2002 season, for winning the
77 MHSAA Class 4-A State Championship and for displaying tireless
78 devotion to their athletic endeavors.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
80 furnished to Clarksdale High, Head Coach Jesse Murphree, Assistant
81 Coaches Jimmy Jennings and Jim Hughes and members of the Capitol
82 Press Corps.

