

By: Senator(s) Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 601

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING JACKSON
2 STATE UNIVERSITY LADY TIGER BASKETBALL COACH DENISE TAYLOR AND HER
3 STAFF FOR THE SUCCESSFUL 2001-2002 SEASON AND THE NEW DIRECTION OF
4 THE PROGRAM.

5 WHEREAS, when Jackson State University hired Denise Taylor to
6 coach the Lady Tiger Basketball Team in June of 2001, she promised
7 the team would play hard, play aggressive defense and be prepared
8 to play. Nine months since Taylor addressed the media at a press
9 conference accepting the JSU job, the Lady Tiger Basketball Team
10 followed Coach T's plan and philosophy and finished the season as
11 one of the top teams in the Southwestern Athletic Conference; and

12 WHEREAS, the Lady Tigers completed Taylor's first season with
13 a 16-13 overall record and made it to the semifinal round of the
14 SWAC Tournament where they were eliminated by league and eventual
15 tournament champions, Southern University (24-4 on the year) in
16 overtime, 65-63. The team won 12 of its last 16 games. The 16-13
17 record was accomplished with virtually the same players that went
18 16-37 the two years prior to Taylor's arrival; and

19 WHEREAS, Taylor's success at JSU should come as no surprise.
20 In 1991, Taylor made school history at American International
21 College in Springfield, Massachusetts, when she coached the team
22 to its first winning season while setting nine school records.
23 Two years later, she was named Conference Coach of the Year as she
24 guided the Golden Eagles of Northeastern Illinois University to
25 back-to-back winning seasons. In 1997, Taylor was chosen as one
26 of eight coaches to launch the inaugural season of the WNBA.
27 Taylor was named the Head Coach of the Utah Starzz in Salt Lake
28 City, Utah; and



29 WHEREAS, in her first year directing the Lady Tiger
30 basketball program, Taylor showed that her versatility and talent
31 exceeded the coaching arena. She served as color analyst on the
32 JSU men's basketball radio broadcast and MBN tabbed her to do the
33 color on its telecast of the SWAC's women tournament championship
34 game; and

35 WHEREAS, LaTasha Lee, a sophomore point guard, was the team
36 leader. More than any other player on the team, she epitomized
37 Taylor's defensive philosophy. She led the nation in steals for
38 most of the year and finished the season with 129. She led the
39 team and SWAC in assists with 156 (6.0 per game); and surprisingly
40 from her point guard position, she led the team in rebounding,
41 averaging 7.1 per game; and

42 WHEREAS, junior forward, Genina Johnson, was the team's
43 leading scorer, averaging 15.7 points per game. She also led the
44 team in three-point shooting, hitting 74 of 229 attempts. Junior
45 guard Sonia Washington was the team's second leading scorer (9.8)
46 and she was second in three-point shooting (22 of 78). Seniors
47 Demetria Richards (C) and LaKimberly Johnson (F) averaged 7.5 and
48 6.6 points per game, respectively. Senior reserves Lamatha Doss
49 (G) averaged 3.1 points per game, Stacey Webb (G) averaged 4.1
50 points per game in an injury-shortened season and Mekel Richardson
51 (F) averaged 1.0 points per game. Lee, Genina Johnson and
52 Washington, along with other teammates Revah DeMar, Jasmine Walls,
53 Alisha Richard, Shi'Nitta "Rene" Woulard, Chinye're Marner and
54 Christina Buford, give Taylor and her staff, Larry McNeal, Gloria
55 Miller and Freddy Murray, a solid nucleus to build around for the
56 future; and

57 WHEREAS, Coach Taylor's basic coaching philosophy is
58 attention to details through the teaching of fundamentals, and it
59 is with pride that we recognize her early success in turning the
60 program around at JSU and bringing honor to her university and to
61 the State of Mississippi:



62 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
63 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
64 we do hereby commend and congratulate Jackson State University
65 Lady Tiger Basketball Coach Denise Taylor and her staff for the
66 successful 2001-2002 season and for the new direction of the JSU
67 program, and wish her continued success in future seasons.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
69 presented to Coach Denise Taylor and to the 2001-2002 Lady Tigers
70 Basketball Team, be forwarded to the President of Jackson State
71 University, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

