

By: Senator(s) Jordan, Frazier, Harden,  
Jackson, Little, Dearing

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 44

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE SPORTS AND BUSINESS CAREER OF  
2 FIVE-TIME OLYMPIAN WILLYE B. WHITE OF GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI, THE  
3 FIRST WOMAN FROM MISSISSIPPI TO COMPETE AND WIN A MEDAL IN THE  
4 OLYMPIC GAMES.

5 WHEREAS, two-time silver medalist Willye White participated  
6 on five United States Olympic teams at five Olympiads; in 1956,  
7 Melbourn, Australia; 1960, Rome, Italy; 1964, Tokyo, Japan; 1968,  
8 Mexico City, Mexico; and 1972, Munich, Germany; and

9 WHEREAS, Willye White is the first woman from Mississippi to  
10 compete in the Olympic Games and win a medal; and

11 WHEREAS, Willye won her first Olympic silver medal in the  
12 long jump at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia. At  
13 the 1964 Games in Tokyo, she won a second silver medal in the  
14 4x100 relay. Willye was also a member of, and medalist on, four  
15 Pan American teams. In 1959, she set an American record in the  
16 long jump that stood for 16 years; and

17 WHEREAS, as a member of 39 international sports teams over  
18 the course of her career, Willye has competed in more than 150  
19 nations. She represented her sport on the U.S. Olympic Committee,  
20 was a coach for the National Sports Festival in 1979 and 1981, was  
21 coach and manager for the 1981 World Cup Track and Field  
22 Championship in Brussels and Rome, and was Head Coach for the 1994  
23 Olympic Sports Festival; and

24 WHEREAS, a native of Greenwood, Mississippi, a 1959 graduate  
25 of Broad Street High School, and a graduate of Chicago State  
26 University, Willye is a member of the National Association of  
27 Sports and Physical Education Hall of Fame, the Black Sports Hall  
28 of Fame, the Women Sports Foundation Hall of Fame, the National



29 Track and Field Hall of Fame, the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame, the  
30 Helms Hall of Fame, the Mississippi State Hall of Fame and the  
31 Tennessee State University Hall of Fame. She is on the Board of  
32 Directors of the American Council on Exercise, the Illinois  
33 Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health and numerous  
34 other athletic boards and committees; and

35 WHEREAS, Willye has a broad range of experience as a sports  
36 commentator and broadcaster with NBC, CBS, ESPN, WTBS and Armed  
37 Forces Radio. She was the official spokesperson for the AAU  
38 Junior Olympics from 1983 through 1987; Willye is Founder and  
39 President of the Willye White Foundation and WBW Hang On  
40 Productions; and

41 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we welcome to  
42 Mississippi this star athlete and role model for future Olympians,  
43 who has brought honor to her school, her community and to the  
44 State of Mississippi:

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
46 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the sports and business  
47 career of 5-Time Olympian Willye B. White of Greenwood,  
48 Mississippi, the first woman from Mississippi to compete and win a  
49 medal in the Olympic Games, and welcome her to her native state  
50 and wishing her continued success in her future endeavors.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
52 Willye White and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

