

By: Senator(s) Burton

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MS. EVELYN BENDER
2 OF NEWTON, MISSISSIPPI, FOR HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL,
3 COLLEGE AND PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL, AND UPON HER INDUCTION INTO
4 THE JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME.

5 WHEREAS, Evelyn Bender, a native of Lawrence and an
6 outstanding athlete who graduated from Newton High School and went
7 on to play professional sports, was recognized for her
8 accomplishments at a presentation on the basketball court at
9 Newton High School on Friday, December 12, 2003; and

10 WHEREAS, Evelyn graduated from Newton High School in 1974,
11 from East Central Community College in 1976 and from Jackson State
12 University in 1979; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Bender played professional women's basketball
14 with the Washington Metros and the New York Stars and was inducted
15 into the Jackson State University Athletic Hall of Fame on
16 September 27, 2002; and

17 WHEREAS, she still holds the record at East Central Community
18 College for points scored in the fewest number of games. In 1976,
19 when Bender was playing for East Central Community College, the
20 girls' basketball team won the State Championship and Bender
21 received All-State and All-Region honors; and

22 WHEREAS, Ms. Evelyn Bender has been inducted into the East
23 Central Community College Hall of Fame. She is an active member
24 of the Jerusalem Baptist Church; and

25 WHEREAS, one of ten children of Christine Bender and the late
26 N.B. Bender of Lawrence, Evelyn cannot recall a time when sports
27 was not important to her; and



28 WHEREAS, Bender graduated in 1974, so her high school
29 basketball career began about the time the 1960s rock group, The
30 McCoys, recorded the classic rock song "Hang on Snoopy." At
31 ballgames, the students changed the lyrics slightly and chanted
32 "Hang on Snoopy, Snoopy hang on" in honor of her nickname; and

33 WHEREAS, she played with the Metros in 1979-1980; after that,
34 there was a dispersal draft and she played for the New York Stars
35 and her team won the championship of the Professional Women's
36 Basketball League; Bender returned to Mississippi, re-enrolled at
37 Jackson State University and received a bachelor's degree in
38 physical education in 1982. Returning to Newton, she began
39 working with the Newton Municipal School District. Over the years
40 she has been the assistant basketball coach, assistant softball
41 and track and field coach, and has done some of everything, from
42 driving a school bus to working as a substitute teacher; and

43 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the career
44 of this Mississippi athlete who has brought honor to her school,
45 her community and to the State of Mississippi:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
47 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Ms. Evelyn
48 Bender of Newton, Mississippi, for her accomplishments in high
49 school, college and professional women's basketball, and upon the
50 occasion of her induction into the Jackson State University
51 Athletic Hall of Fame, we wish her continued success in her future
52 endeavors.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
54 presented to Ms. Bender and her family and be made available to
55 the Newton Record and the Capitol Press Corps.

