

By: Representative Robinson (63rd)

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 120

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE SIWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL CHESS TEAM
2 ON AN OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
3 TOURNAMENT.

4 WHEREAS, the Siwell Middle School Chess Team, the
5 "Checkmates," competed in the United States Chess Federation's
6 2004 National Scholastic Chess Championship held in Dallas, Texas,
7 finishing eighth in the nation in their division; and

8 WHEREAS, this is the Checkmates' second consecutive year to
9 place nationally in the top ten, having placed ninth in the 2003
10 championships; and

11 WHEREAS, the Checkmates, throughout tournament play, defeated
12 many well-contended teams and won the Jackson Public School 2004
13 Middle School Chess Tournament, with James Villes being the only
14 undefeated player in the tournament; and

15 WHEREAS, the seven members of Checkmates team are: sixth
16 graders, Fabian Broome, Julius Gladney and Jeremy Stocks; seventh
17 graders, Curtis Taylor and James Villes; and eighth graders,
18 Jotham Greer and Jamaal Kelly; and

19 WHEREAS, many individual honors have been bestowed upon
20 various team members in recognition of their fine, dedicated and
21 superior play and their hard work this season, including Jotham
22 Greer being awarded honorable mention and a nineteenth overall
23 individual finish by James Villes; and

24 WHEREAS, the Checkmates have been superbly coached and
25 inspired by Chess Coach Danny Gatlin, who has broadened the team's
26 knowledge of the game and refined their skills in execution; and

27 WHEREAS, they have developed a winning and cooperative spirit
28 and a high degree of sportsmanship, and their activities and
29 attitude reflect great credit upon the individual players and
30 their coaches and bring honor to Siwell Middle School; and

31 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
32 recognize and commend excellence, especially when evidenced by the
33 youth of our state, who are its future:

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
35 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
36 commend and congratulate the Siwell Middle School Checkmates Chess
37 Team and their coach, Danny Gatlin, and Assistant Coaches for
38 their phenomenal 2004 season, for finishing eighth in the National
39 Championship and for displaying tireless devotion to their
40 endeavors.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
42 furnished to Siwell Middle School, Coach Danny Gatlin and to the
43 members of the Capitol Press Corps.