

By: Senator(s) Hyde-Smith, Posey, Little

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 577

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 BROOKHAVEN ACADEMY "LADY COUGARS" GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR
3 CAPTURING THE OVERALL STATE TITLE AND FOR A 43-0 PERFECT SEASON.

4 WHEREAS, The Brookhaven Academy "Lady Cougars" Girls
5 Basketball Team and their fans celebrated after winning the
6 Mississippi Private School Association's (MPSA) Overall Tournament
7 Title with a 72-67 victory over Leake Academy on Saturday,
8 February 28, 2004, at A.E. Wood Coliseum in Clinton; and

9 WHEREAS, the large gold basketball trophy in the middle of a
10 sea of blue was hoisted high by the team as they received the
11 accolades of the large throng of followers, estimated at 2,700;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the Lady Cougars finished the 2003-2004 season with
14 a perfect 43-0 record, which places them in an elite group, they
15 had won three straight Class AA State Tournament titles only to
16 lose the Overall Title; and

17 WHEREAS, this championship was the first Overall Title since
18 the 1983 season when the Lady Cougars prevailed after finishing
19 runners-up a week earlier in the state tournament; and

20 WHEREAS, it was the first Overall Title for highly successful
21 Brookhaven Academy Head Coach Barry Gray, who stated, "This team
22 has a lot of character and is a fine group of Christian young
23 ladies"; and

24 WHEREAS, Coach Gray has only one Senior, Jessie Altman, in
25 his starting lineup; Juniors are Kelli Byrd, Lauren Smith, Mallory
26 Logan and Kristian Davidson; Sophomore Emily Langley is the top
27 reserve; and the Lady Cougars team roster is as follows: Kelli

28 Byrd, Amber Beeson, Kristian Davidson, Lauren Smith, Joy Powell,
29 Jessica Diamond, Mallory Logan, Maddie Allen, Jessie Altman, Emily
30 Langley and Allyson Pickett; and

31 WHEREAS, the championship game was a rematch of the previous
32 Class AA Tournament finals, and the Lady Cougars got a strong
33 second-half performance from Junior Center Kristian Davidson and a
34 team-high 20 points from Junior Guard Kelli Byrd; and

35 WHEREAS, the following Lady Cougars made the MPSA Overall
36 All-Tournament Team: Kelli Byrd, Jessie Altman, Lauren Smith and
37 Mallory Logan; and

38 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the great
39 team effort of this group of student athletes, who have brought
40 honor to their school, their community and to the State of
41 Mississippi:

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
43 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
44 we do hereby commend and congratulate the Brookhaven Academy "Lady
45 Cougars" Girls Basketball Team and Coach Barry Gray for winning
46 the MPSA Overall Tournament and for their perfect 43-0 season, and
47 extend to them the best wishes of the Legislature for success in
48 their future academic and athletic endeavors.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
50 Coach Gray and the Lady Cougars Basketball Team, be forwarded to
51 the Headmaster of Brookhaven Academy and be made available to the
52 Capitol Press Corps.