

By: Representatives Akins, Capps, Gadd,
Gregory, Martinson, Rogers (14th), Stevens

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING VAN CHANCELLOR UPON HIS
2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND WINNING THE 2004 OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL IN WOMEN'S
3 BASKETBALL.

4 WHEREAS, since being named Head Coach and General Manager of
5 the Women's National Basketball Association's (WNBA) Houston
6 Comets franchise on April 29, 1997, Van Chancellor has continued
7 to raise the standard of excellence within the arena of women's
8 basketball; and

9 WHEREAS, a native of Louisville, Mississippi, Coach
10 Chancellor played two years of basketball at East Central Junior
11 College in Decatur, Mississippi, before transferring to
12 Mississippi State, where he earned a bachelor's degree in math and
13 physical education in 1965 and his master's degree in physical
14 education in 1973; and

15 WHEREAS, Coach Chancellor first savored the coaching
16 experience during his senior year at Mississippi State, serving as
17 head coach of the boy's basketball team at Noxapater High School,
18 followed by coaching careers at Horn Lake High School and Harrison
19 Central High School; and

20 WHEREAS, before joining the professional ranks, Coach
21 Chancellor spent 19 successful seasons as the head coach of the
22 University of Mississippi Lady Rebels where he posted a winning
23 record of 439-154, made 14 NCAA Tournament appearances, ranked
24 14th in all-time winning percentage among women's basketball
25 coaches, was named SEC Coach of the Year on three occasions (1987,
26 1990 and 1992) and won the Lady Rebels' first-ever SEC regular
27 season championship in the 1991-1992 season; and

28 WHEREAS, since stepping into the professional coaching arena,
29 Coach Chancellor is the only head coach in the WNBA league to have
30 been with his original team since the league's inception in 1997
31 and ranks as the most winning coach in WNBA history with a 174-80
32 regular season record and an 18-9 playoffs record; and

33 WHEREAS, Coach Chancellor, who earned three consecutive WNBA
34 Coach of the Year honors (1997-1999), led the Comets to win the
35 first four WNBA Championships and to become the only team to
36 qualify for the playoffs in each of the first seven seasons of the
37 WNBA; and

38 WHEREAS, in addition to his coaching experience in the WNBA,
39 Coach Chancellor led the 2002 USA Basketball Women's World
40 Championship Team to the gold medal at the 14th FIBA World
41 Championship for Women, and under his guidance on August 28, 2004,
42 in Athens, Greece, the 2004 Olympic Women's Basketball Team went a
43 perfect 8-0 to capture the gold medal with a 74-63 victory over
44 previously unbeaten Australia; and

45 WHEREAS, three-time head coach of the Western Conference
46 All-Star Team (1999-2001), Coach Chancellor's exceptional
47 collegiate and professional coaching career was recognized with
48 induction into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame on June 9,
49 2001, the Ole Miss M-Club Athletic Hall of Fame on August 21,
50 2002, as well as the East Central Community College Athletic Hall
51 of Fame in October 1998; and

52 WHEREAS, a tireless contributor to the community and his
53 church, among his vast involvement, Coach Chancellor has been a
54 guest speaker during Teach for America Week, Prison Fellowship
55 Ministries, and hosted special holiday lunch and gift delivery to
56 the Open Door Mission in Houston, Texas; and

57 WHEREAS, throughout his career, Coach Chancellor has enjoyed
58 the love, support and encouragement of his family, including:
59 Betty, his wife of 42 years; children, John and Renee; and four
60 grandsons, Nicholas, Jacob, Joseph and Zachary; and

61 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Legislature to recognize and
62 commend excellence in the accomplishments of such an outstanding
63 Mississippian and coach as Coach Van Chancellor, whose rise to the
64 top reflects a wealth of knowledge, skill and talent and brings
65 great honor and pride to the State of Mississippi:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
67 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
68 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Coach Van
69 Chancellor on his accomplishments, on a successful career and for
70 winning the 2004 Olympic Gold Medal in women's basketball and
71 extend our wishes for continued success in all his future
72 endeavors.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
74 furnished to Coach Van Chancellor and to the members of the
75 Capitol Press Corps.