

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.