

By: Senator(s) Kirby, Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 589

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER OF LEGENDARY
2 PEARL HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD COACH WOODY BARNETT AND
3 CONGRATULATING HIM FOR HIS SELECTION AS THE 2004 NATIONAL
4 CROSS-COUNTRY COACH OF THE YEAR.

5 WHEREAS, Woody Barnett is in his 28th year as Director of
6 Athletics and Boys Track and Field Coach at Pearl High School; and

7 WHEREAS, Coach Barnett, 51, started coaching cross-country
8 and track at Pearl in 1977, and he has been selected Coach of the
9 Year by the Mississippi Association of Coaches seven times; and

10 WHEREAS, with 15 cross-country and 16 track championships,
11 Woody Barnett was selected the 2004 National Federation of State
12 High School Associations National Coach of the Year in the sport
13 of boys cross-country; and

14 WHEREAS, Barnett was selected from the NFHS Region that
15 includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North
16 Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. He was then selected from
17 the eight regions across the country; and

18 WHEREAS, coaching has been a passion of Barnett for more than
19 34 years; and

20 WHEREAS, under Coach Barnett's leadership, Pearl High School
21 has been in contention every year for the state title in both
22 cross-country and track. The boys cross-country team won its
23 sixth consecutive state championship in 2004, and the girls won
24 their second straight. The boys team hasn't lost to a Mississippi
25 school in 55 races; and

26 WHEREAS, "He is an outstanding coach and well deserving,"
27 former Pearl standout and now Assistant Coach George Kersh said,

28 "Coach Barnett does a good job of letting athletes know he cares
29 about them"; and

30 WHEREAS, persistence is how Barnett described his coaching
31 philosophy. His teams were not always the favorites going into
32 state meets, but they have dug deep to find heart, and that has
33 been how they have won. Looking at the great athletes he
34 produced, all went on to be outstanding runners, some high school
35 and some college; and

36 WHEREAS, coaches are some of the most influential people in
37 children's lives, whether it be in a recreational league or at the
38 high school level; and

39 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
40 legendary Coach whose positive personality and character has
41 molded the lives of so many citizens in his community and in the
42 State of Mississippi:

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
44 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
45 we do hereby commend the career of legendary Pearl High School
46 Track and Field Coach Woody Barnett and congratulate him for his
47 selection as the 2004 National Cross-Country Coach of the Year
48 chosen by the National Federation of High School Associations, and
49 extend to him and his family the best wishes of the Legislature on
50 their future endeavors.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
52 Coach Woody Barnett, forwarded to the Superintendent of Schools,
53 Dr. Stanley Miller, and be made available to the Capitol Press
54 Corps.