

By: Representatives Weathersby, Baker
(74th), Malone, Moore, Reeves, Rogers (61st),
Rotenberry, Smith (59th)

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 87

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING COACH BENJAMIN COYTE
2 VANCE ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE MISSISSIPPI COACHES ASSOCIATION
3 HALL OF FAME AND ON HIS LIFE AND OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AS A COACH
4 AND MENTOR OF SEVERAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC TEAMS, AND AS A TEACHER
5 AND PRINCIPAL IN VARIOUS MISSISSIPPI SCHOOLS.

6 WHEREAS, Coach "Red" Vance grew up in rural Newton County,
7 and attended school in Conehatta, Mississippi, where the only
8 competitive sport was basketball and the only practice court away
9 from school was a hoop nailed to the front of the family car shed,
10 and during these years he had very dedicated coaches who taught
11 him the fundamentals, discipline and work ethics of the game of
12 basketball so that he grew to love the game; and

13 WHEREAS, young Benjamin Vance was elected to various all-
14 tournament teams and then to all-state teams during his junior and
15 senior high school years and attended Mississippi State University
16 on a basketball scholarship from the fall of 1948 through the
17 spring of 1952; and

18 WHEREAS, during his years at Mississippi State University, he
19 played ball with and against such players as Jo Jo Dean and Bob
20 Pettit of Louisiana State University, and Cliff Hagan and Bob
21 Cousey of Kentucky, causing the famous Kentucky Coach, Adolph
22 Rupp, to name "Red" Vance as a member of the team he would least
23 like to play against; and

24 WHEREAS, although Red Vance was rather short at 6'1" to play
25 the center position, he played against athletes 6'4" to 7'1" and
26 held the SEC free throw record during his senior year with 147 in
27 23 games, resulting in his being drafted by the Milwaukee Hawks
28 team in 1952; and

29 WHEREAS, Red Vance turned down the opportunity to play in a
30 professional league, and chose to serve his country with the
31 United States Air Force in Korea and Japan; and

32 WHEREAS, Coach Vance was discharged from the Air Force in
33 1954, and began his 47-year coaching and school administration
34 career at Pelahatchie High School, and continued that coaching
35 career for the next 11 years as a successful coach at Florence
36 High School; and

37 WHEREAS, interrupting his career again in 1967, saying he was
38 too old to coach, Red Vance began a new career as Principal at
39 Richland High School, serving in school administration for the
40 next 20 years; and

41 WHEREAS, in 1986, returning to Richland to retire, he was
42 soon called back into coaching by the Mississippi Private School
43 Association where he coached for the next 14 years; and

44 WHEREAS, during his long and distinguished coaching career,
45 Coach Vance coached six Girls All-Star Games, including the first
46 MHSAA Girls All-Star Game; and

47 WHEREAS, Coach Vance was honored as Coach of the Year for the
48 Mississippi Private School Association for nine years, Coach of
49 the Year for Girls in the Little Dixie Conference for three years,
50 made nine trips to State Tournaments in Public and Private
51 Schools, won two Little Dixie Championships, one South State
52 Championship, was four times Rankin County Tournament Winner in
53 girls and three times in boys basketball; and

54 WHEREAS, Coach Vance has a win-loss record, including B
55 Teams, of 1041 wins and 333 losses for a 75.7% winning record; and

56 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
57 and commend excellence especially when evidenced by such an
58 outstanding Coach as Benjamin Coyte Vance:

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
60 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
61 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend Benjamin Coyte Vance on being

62 inducted into the Mississippi Coaches Association Hall of Fame,
63 and express our warmest wishes for continued success in all his
64 future endeavors.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
66 furnished to Coach Benjamin Coyte Vance and to the members of the
67 Capitol Press Corps.