

By: Senator(s) Clarke, Dearing, Simmons,
Walls, Jordan, Jackson (11th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 623

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY "STATESMEN" BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM AND COACH
3 STEVE RIVES FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING 2005-2006 BASKETBALL SEASON AND
4 FOR WINNING THE GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, the Delta State University "Statesmen" Boys
6 Basketball Team led by Coach Steve Rives earned the right to host
7 the Division II South Region Men's Basketball Tournament in
8 Cleveland, Mississippi, after winning the Gulf South Conference
9 Tournament Final on Sunday, March 5, 2006; and

10 WHEREAS, the Statesmen finished the regular season ranked No.
11 1 in the South Region poll and No. 1 in the National poll; and

12 WHEREAS, Coach Rives and the Statesmen (30-2) saw their
13 magical season come to a close with an 83-68 loss to the
14 University of Arkansas-Monticello Boll Weevils in the semifinals
15 of the NCAA South Region Men's Basketball Tournament at the Walter
16 Sillers Coliseum on March 12, 2006. The loss snapped the nation's
17 longest winning streak and ended the season for the nation's
18 top-ranked team; and

19 WHEREAS, the Statesmen actually led 30-25 after shooting 44%
20 in the opening half. The University of Arkansas-Monticello shot
21 just 36% in the first half, but pulled the biggest one-half
22 turnaround against the Statesmen in school postseason history.
23 The Statesmen placed four players in double digits led by Jeremy
24 Richardson's 17 points. Jasper Johnson dropped in 16 points,
25 while Victor Brown chipped in 13 points and Travis DeGroot scored
26 11; and

27 WHEREAS, the Statesmen racked up the basketballs and left the
28 locker room after their greatest season in basketball history.

29 The Statesmen claimed the Gulf South Conference Championship en
30 route to a school record of 30 wins. The Statesmen were also
31 ranked No. 1 in the nation for the second time in school history
32 and for the longest period; and

33 WHEREAS, Coach Steve Rives claimed his 400th career win in
34 the tournament final and captured his 5th GSC West Coach of the
35 Year Award after the Statesmen claimed a perfect 16-0 record in
36 GSC play; and

37 WHEREAS, Delta State Senior Center Jasper Johnson was named
38 the NCAA Division II National Player of the Year by Daktronics and
39 *Basketball Times* on March 21, 2006, by a vote of the nation's
40 media and coaches. The Hollandale native is the first Statesman
41 to garner the nation's top individual honor. He averaged 20.6
42 points and 8.2 rebounds a game with a 55.5% field-goal mark; and

43 WHEREAS, Johnson was also named as a finalist for the 2006
44 Cellular South Howell Trophy, which is awarded annually to
45 Mississippi's top men's college basketball player. Jasper Johnson
46 is a 6'7" Senior from Hollandale, Mississippi, who led Delta State
47 in all offensive categories en route to the school's best record
48 ever at 30-2, a mark that included a 26-game win streak; he earned
49 Division II All-South Region and Gulf South Conference Player of
50 the Year honors with his 20.5 points and 8.2 rebounds per game;
51 and

52 WHEREAS, Delta State University's Jasper Johnson and Jeremy
53 Richardson were named to the NCAA Division II All-Star Game as
54 part of the NCAA Elite Eight Championship weekend in Springfield,
55 Massachusetts. The Statesmen duo will represent the South Region.
56 Jasper Johnson was also selected to the All-GSC First Team.
57 Jeremy Richardson followed up a brilliant junior season with a
58 stellar senior year. The 6'6" Guard from Zachary, Louisiana,
59 averaged 17.7 points and 5.2 rebounds per game for the Statesmen.
60 Richardson was a Second Team All-South Region selection and a
61 First Team All-GSC Guard for a second year in a row; and

62 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
63 magical season by a group of student athletes who have brought
64 honor to their university, their community and to the State of
65 Mississippi:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
67 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
68 we do hereby commend and congratulate the Delta State University
69 "Statesmen" Boys Basketball Team and Coach Steve Rives for their
70 outstanding 2005-2006 basketball season, for winning the Gulf
71 South Conference Championship, for their No. 1 national ranking
72 and for their many postseason awards, and extend to them the best
73 wishes of the Legislature for their future athletic and academic
74 successes.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
76 the Statesmen and the President of Delta State University, be
77 forwarded to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
78 Learning, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.