

By: Senator(s) Clarke, Dearing, Simmons,  
Walls, Jordan, Jackson (11th), Browning,  
Butler, Carmichael, Frazier, Gordon, Harden,  
Horhn, Jackson (32nd), Kirby, Little, Posey,  
Williamson

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.