

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

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 624

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

5 WHEREAS, one year removed from a 15-12 season, Coach Sandra
6 Rushing and the Delta State University "Lady Statesmen" (30-3) saw
7 their Cinderella-season come to a close in the NCAA South Region
8 Women's Basketball Tournament in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. The 2006
9 Gulf South Conference champs lost a heartbreaker 44-40 in the
10 Regional Final to Henderson State University; and

11 WHEREAS, the game was a story of two halves. Top-seeded
12 Delta State controlled the opening half, while Henderson State
13 dominated the second half. Amber Gean paced the Lady Statesmen
14 with 14 points in her final game for Delta State University.
15 Courtney Wilson added eight points and eight rebounds, while
16 Lawanda Stewart added six points and seven rebounds; and

17 WHEREAS, in 2005-2006, the Lady Statesmen made one of the
18 biggest turnarounds in all of college basketball. With only 15
19 wins the previous season, the Lady Statesmen marched to a 30-2
20 record and on March 5, 2006, claimed the Gulf South Conference
21 Championship with a 64-53 win over Henderson State; and

22 WHEREAS, DSU would conclude the year ranked seventh in the
23 WBCA/USA Today Top-25 Poll, after six straight weeks in the top
24 100; and

25 WHEREAS, Delta State University's Lady Statesmen Head Women's
26 Basketball Coach Sandra Rushing was named the Gulf South
27 Conference West Coach of the Year by a vote of the league coaches
28 for her team's stellar season. The Lady Statesmen also placed two

29 players on the All-GSC Squad. Senior Center Lawanda Stewart made
30 the First Team All-GSC, while Sophomore Guard Jennifer Rushing
31 garnered Second Team All-GSC. Stewart, a 6'1" Senior from Leland,
32 Mississippi, finished the regular season averaging 10.8 points and
33 6.2 rebounds. She was named the GSC Tournament Most Outstanding
34 Player after leading the Lady Statesmen to the GSC Championship;
35 and

36 WHEREAS, the Delta State University "Lady Statesmen"
37 2005-2006 roster is as follows: Wyconda Thomas (11) G; Lawanda
38 Stewart (12) C; Jennifer Rushing (10) G; Sheena Swanigan (10) G;
39 Amber Gean (12) G; Shalonda Williams (11) G; Whiteney Shepard (10)
40 G; Natalie Ellington (11) G; Rebekah Brown (11) F; Ashley Martin
41 (11) G; Casey Broussard (11) F; Courtney Wilson (10) F; and Renita
42 Jones (9) C. The Coaching Staff is as follows: Sandra Rushing,
43 Head Coach; Assistant Coach, Scottie Batts; Graduate Assistant,
44 Tiffany Phillips; Athletic Trainer, Hunter Moore, A.T.C.; and
45 Managers Jana Hayes, Monica Potts and Vickie Williams; and

46 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this great
47 group of student athletes who have brought national recognition to
48 their university, their community and to the State of Mississippi:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
50 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
51 we do hereby commend and congratulate the Delta State University
52 "Lady Statesmen" Girls Basketball Team and Coach Sandra Rushing
53 for their outstanding 2005-2006 season and for winning the Gulf
54 South Conference Championship, and extend to them the best wishes
55 of the Legislature for their future athletic and academic
56 successes.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
58 the Lady Statesmen and the President of Delta State University, be
59 forwarded to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
60 Learning and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.