

By: Senator(s) Frazier, Horhn, Harden,
White, Michel

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 631

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING VETERAN
2 LANIER BASKETBALL COACH THOMAS BILLUPS.

3 WHEREAS, Coach Thomas Billups' success at Lanier High School
4 may be unmatched in the history of Mississippi high school boys
5 basketball; and

6 WHEREAS, Lanier High School Coach Billups' Bulldogs (34-3)
7 won their final 19 games and finished No. 1 in *The Clarion-Ledger*
8 Super 10 Rankings for the second consecutive year; and

9 WHEREAS, in 15 seasons, Billups has coached in 12 state
10 finals, including eight in a row. He guided the Bulldogs to a
11 second straight Class 4A State Championship, tying him with
12 Gulfport's legendary Bert Jenkins for the most Mississippi High
13 School Activities Association Boys State Titles with seven.
14 Lanier won again despite the graduation of McDonald All-American
15 Monta Ellis, who joined the NBA; and

16 WHEREAS, Coach Billups, 53, has built a hoops machine on
17 Maple Street in Jackson. Not even Coach Jenkins, who won 866
18 games in 28 seasons, coached in eight consecutive state finals;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, with a 463-73 record shouting orders from Lanier's
21 bench, the demonstrative Billups has averaged more than 30
22 victories per year and won an outstanding 86% of the time; and

23 WHEREAS, Coach Billups' latest Gold Ball may be his most
24 satisfying. Although Senior Point Guard Al Graham, Junior Guard
25 R.L. Horton and Senior Forward Kaluso Williams entered this
26 season with some experience, most of the Bulldogs were new faces.
27 Lavel Johnson, the Mississippi correspondent for the recruiting

28 magazine *Hoop Scoop*, believes Billups will cherish this state
29 crown the most. This was his top coaching job; and

30 WHEREAS, Coach Billups' "in-your-face" style is relentless.
31 Rarely does he sit. He paces the sidelines, roaring like an
32 angry, nattily-attired bear. Sometimes, he will stop, arms
33 folded, and scowl, staring at a striped shirt, or player, who has
34 done him wrong. He plays no favorites. Whatever goes for one
35 player goes for all of them; and

36 WHEREAS, for all of his bluntness, there is also a gentler
37 side to Coach Billups, whether he's attending church with his team
38 or hosting a Super Bowl party. The greatest tribute is what his
39 players and former players say about him, the father-figure and
40 nurturing comments that have been made. Coach Billups has control
41 of his players and they respect him; and

42 WHEREAS, a look at Lanier's year-by-year ranking since Coach
43 Thomas Billups arrived is as follows:

44	Season	Ranking
45	2005-2006	1st
46	2004-2005	1st
47	2003-2004	2nd
48	2002-2003	2nd
49	2001-2002	2nd
50	2000-2001	3rd
51	1999-2000	4th
52	1998-1999	1st
53	1997-1998	NR
54	1996-1997	1st
55	1995-1996	1st
56	1994-1995	15th
57	1993-1994	4th
58	1992-1993	1st
59	1991-1992	14th

60 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
61 accomplishments of this remarkable Coach who has brought honor to
62 his school, his community and to the State of Mississippi:

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
64 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
65 we do hereby commend and congratulate veteran Lanier Basketball
66 Coach Thomas Billups and extend to him and his family the best
67 wishes of the Legislature in his future successes.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
69 Coach Billups and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.