

By: Senator(s) Frazier, Harden, Jackson
(11th), Jackson (32nd), Walls

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 50

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING "ALL-STAR FIRST TEAM" AND "METRO
2 PLAYER OF THE YEAR" R.L. HORTON, JUNIOR GUARD FOR THE LANIER HIGH
3 SCHOOL STATE CHAMPION BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM.

4 WHEREAS, Lanier High School Junior Guard R.L. Horton is a
5 prolific scorer adept at shooting jump shots or driving to the
6 goal. He sparked the Bulldogs (34-3) to a second straight Class
7 4A State Championship and the state's No. 1 ranking for all
8 classifications. He equaled his career high with 50 points,
9 including 23 in the final three minutes of regulation, as Lanier
10 rallied to force overtime and defeat Northeast Lauderdale in the
11 North 4A quarterfinals; and

12 WHEREAS, Lanier's Coach Thomas Billups said, "We gave it to
13 him every time and he showed everybody what he could do. Just
14 look at what R.L. did this season, how he carried a team without a
15 lot of experience. I kept putting the pressure on him and he kept
16 bringing it every night. I know he's a small guard, but I
17 wouldn't trade him for any player in the state"; and

18 WHEREAS, according to Lanier Coach Thomas Billups, modesty is
19 typical of Horton, and it's a key part of an approach that helped
20 him earn "Player of the Year" honors on the 27th annual
21 *Clarion-Ledger* All-Metro Boys Basketball Team for Hinds, Madison
22 and Rankin Counties; and

23 WHEREAS, Horton, a 5-foot-11, 165-pound Junior Guard, who's
24 equally lethal shooting three-pointers or driving for layups,
25 averaged 24.6 points as the Bulldogs won their final 19 games (not
26 bad for a player who didn't try out as a seventh-grader at Powell
27 Middle School because he assumed he wouldn't make the cut); and

28 WHEREAS, after averaging 9.5 points as a Sophomore while
29 eclipsed by the giant shadow of the NBA-bound Mark Ellis, Horton
30 moved to center stage in 2005-2006. Joining Dandy Dozen Senior
31 Point Guard Al Graham in a dynamic backcourt, Horton made a smooth
32 transition as the team's go-to guy, scoring 26 points in the
33 season opener against Terry and finishing with 23 as Lanier beat
34 Indianola Gentry 72-43 in the 4A title game March 9, 2006; and

35 WHEREAS, Horton, who turned 16 last August, follows Nichols
36 (1994), Tang Hamilton (1997) and Ellis (2002, 2004 and 2005) as
37 Metro Players of the Year from Lanier. Next year he can go one-up
38 on all who've helped deliver 15 Gold Balls to Maple Street since
39 1950 by completing the first State Championship three-peat in
40 school history; and

41 WHEREAS, R.L.'s biggest influence is his father, R.L. Horton,
42 Sr.; and

43 WHEREAS, it is with pride that we recognize this basketball
44 star who has brought honor to his school, community and to the
45 state:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
47 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend "All-State First Team" and
48 "Metro Player of the Year" R.L. Horton, Junior Guard for the
49 Lanier High School "Bulldogs" 4A State Champions, and extend to
50 him and his family our best wishes for his future successes.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
52 R.L. Horton and to Coach Thomas Billups, and be made available to
53 the Capitol Press Corps.