

By: Senator(s) Clarke, Dearing, Simmons,
Walls

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 51

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING SENIOR FORWARD
2 JASPER JOHNSON WHO LED DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY TO THEIR BEST SEASON
3 AND FOR WINNING THE CELLULAR SOUTH HOWELL TROPHY.

4 WHEREAS, Jasper Johnson, 6'7" Forward from Hollandale,
5 Mississippi, capped a stellar Senior season at Delta State
6 University by taking home the Cellular South Howell Trophy as the
7 state's top college player at a four-year school; and

8 WHEREAS, Johnson, who transferred to the Division II school
9 after spending his first three seasons at Division I University of
10 Southern Mississippi, beat out two D-I players for the award:
11 Mississippi State University Forward Charles Rhodes and Jackson
12 State University Guard Trey Johnson. Fifty-one media members from
13 the state submitted votes for the award; and

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

20 WHEREAS, the Cellular South Howell Trophy is awarded annually
21 to Mississippi's top men's college basketball player; and

22 WHEREAS, Jasper Johnson led Delta State in all offensive
23 categories en route to the school's best record ever at 30-2, a
24 mark that included a 26-game win streak; he earned Division II
25 All-South Region and Gulf South Conference Player of the Year
26 honors with his 20.5 points and 8.2 rebounds per game; and

27 WHEREAS, Delta State University's Jasper Johnson and Jeremy
28 Richardson were named to the NCAA Division II All-Star Game as
29 part of the NCAA Elite Eight Championship weekend in Springfield,
30 Massachusetts. The Statesmen duo represented the South Region.

31 Jasper Johnson was also selected to the All-GSC First Team; and

32 WHEREAS, "I've gone through some changes, but it has really
33 been a special year for me," Johnson said while embracing his
34 grandmother, Mildred Causey, during the awards ceremony at the
35 Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. "I've felt great this
36 entire year. So tonight I really feel no different. But I do
37 realize that everything has all kind of built up to this time
38 right here"; and

39 WHEREAS, after accepting the award, named after former MSU
40 and Boston Celtics great Bailey Howell, Jasper talked about how
41 hard work helped him overcome a few of the obstacles in his past.
42 Johnson's college basketball career was nearly derailed before it
43 started. He suffered severe damage to one of his shoulders and
44 multiple fractures in his foot and leg in a car accident just
45 before the start of his Freshman season at USM. But he fought his
46 way back onto the court; and

47 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
48 magical season by an outstanding athlete who has brought honor to
49 his university, his community and to the State of Mississippi:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
51 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Senior
52 Forward Jasper Johnson who led the Delta State University
53 "Statesmen" to their best season in history and for winning the
54 coveted Cellular South Howell Trophy, and extend to him the best
55 wishes of the Senate for his future successes.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
57 Jasper Johnson and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.