

By: Representatives Martinson, Baker (74th),
Blackmon, Coleman (65th), Denny, Gunn, Smith
(27th) To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 73

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 MADISON-RIDGELAND ACADEMY PATRIOTS BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAMS
3 ON WINNING THE MISSISSIPPI PRIVATE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OVERALL
4 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

5 WHEREAS, the Madison-Ridgeland Academy Patriots Boys and
6 Girls Basketball Teams made history by winning the Mississippi
7 Private School Association (MPSA) Overall State Championships; and

8 WHEREAS, the Madison-Ridgeland Academy (MRA) Patriots and
9 Lady Patriots have never won the boys and girls MPSA Overall State
10 Championship simultaneously in the school's history, until this
11 outstanding victory, and the last time such a remarkable
12 accomplishment was made in the MPSA was 26 years ago; and

13 WHEREAS, throughout their outstanding seasons, the Lady
14 Patriots and Patriots participated in several playoffs, which
15 included victories as the AAA Division I Champions and the AAA
16 Champions; and

17 WHEREAS, coached by Stephen Force, the Lady Patriots had an
18 impressive record of 39-6 for the year, and the boys who are
19 coached by Richard Duease had an outstanding record of 36-4; and

20 WHEREAS, during the overall tournament, the Lady Patriots
21 outscored their opponents by a combined score of 149-124, and the
22 Patriots had a combined score of 202-142 which demonstrates the
23 talents and skills that the team members displayed; and

24 WHEREAS, the Patriots' win in the overall tournament was made
25 even more memorable because the boys team's head coach, Richard
26 Duease, had undergone successful heart surgery the very day of the
27 tournament and the team was even more inspired to win while they
28 were skillfully guided in the tournament by Coach Ross Hailey; and

29 WHEREAS, Coach Duease and Coach Force superbly coached and
30 inspired the Patriots and Lady Patriots and broadened the players'
31 knowledge of the game and refined their skills in execution; and

32 WHEREAS, the MRA Patriots and Lady Patriots have developed a
33 winning and cooperative spirit and a superb degree of
34 sportsmanship, and their activities and attitude reflect great
35 credit upon the individual players and their coaches and bring
36 great honor to MRA; and

37 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
38 recognize and commend excellence, such as the athletic superiority
39 of the MRA Lady Patriots and Patriots, especially when displayed
40 by the young people of our state, who are its future:

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
42 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
43 commend and congratulate the Madison-Ridgeland Academy Boys and
44 Girls Basketball Teams and Coaches Duease, Hailey and Force for
45 their outstanding 2006-2007 season, for winning the MPSA Overall
46 Tournament State Championships and for displaying tireless
47 devotion to their athletic endeavors.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
49 furnished to Madison-Ridgeland Academy, Coaches Duease, Hailey and
50 Force and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.