

By: Representatives Banks, Evans, Fleming,
Robinson (63rd)

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 100

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING VETERAN LANIER
2 BASKETBALL COACH THOMAS BILLUPS FOR HIS 8TH STATE TITLE AND THE
3 LANIER HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS FOR THEIR 3RD CONSECUTIVE CLASS 4A
4 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AND GRAND SLAM OVERALL TITLE.

5 WHEREAS, the No. 1 ranked Lanier High School Bulldogs
6 defeated New Hope 74-69 in a gutsy come-from-behind victory on
7 Friday, March 9, 2007, for their third consecutive Class 4A State
8 Championship before a crowd of 4,200 at the Mississippi Coliseum;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Coach Thomas Billups' success at Lanier High School
11 may be unmatched in the history of Mississippi high school boys
12 basketball, boasting a career record of 502 victories, a
13 Mississippi High School Activities Association record of eight
14 Boys State Titles and his third consecutive championship win at
15 the Mississippi Coliseum; and

16 WHEREAS, in 16 seasons, Billups has coached in 13 State
17 Finals, nine of which have been consecutive appearances to the
18 "Big House," which by virtue of this third straight Class 4A State
19 Championship, has allowed him to surpass Gulfport's legendary Bert
20 Jenkins for the most MHSAA Boys State Titles with eight; and

21 WHEREAS, this latest Gold Ball Trophy was earned thanks to an
22 unwavering dedication, a seemingly endless will of determination
23 and the familiar second-half magic of Lanier's *The Clarion-Ledger*
24 Dandy Dozen Senior Guard R.L. Horton, who scored 21 of his
25 game-high 31 points in the second half of this championship game;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, in addition to Horton's standout performance, Terry
28 Church added 20 points and Benjamin George added 16 for the

29 Bulldogs, who have won a state record of 16 State Championships;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, the greatest tribute to Coach Billups is what his
32 players and former players say about him, the father-figure and
33 nurturing comments that he makes; and

34 WHEREAS, the fiery Coach Billups will have to find another
35 tactic next year (as if shooting for a 4A four-peat in 2008 wasn't
36 enough) after his team's convincing 59-47 victory over arch rival
37 Provine High School to complete the MHSAA's first Tournament of
38 Champions in 25 years before an announced crowd of 1,599 at the
39 BancorpSouth Arena on Saturday, March 17, 2007; and

40 WHEREAS, R.L. Horton capped one of the winningest careers in
41 Mississippi high school history with a game-high 25 points as the
42 Bulldogs finished 39-3, eight days after taking home their third
43 consecutive Class 4A State Championship at the Mississippi
44 Coliseum; and

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

47	Season	Ranking
48	2006-2007	1st
49	2005-2006	1st
50	2004-2005	1st
51	2003-2004	2nd
52	2002-2003	2nd
53	2001-2002	2nd
54	2000-2001	3rd
55	1999-2000	4th
56	1998-1999	1st
57	1997-1998	NR
58	1996-1997	1st
59	1995-1996	1st
60	1994-1995	15th
61	1993-1994	4th

62 1992-1993 1st

63 1991-1992 14th

64 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
65 championship team and the accomplishments of this remarkable Coach
66 who have brought honor to their school, their community and to the
67 State of Mississippi:

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
69 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
70 commend and congratulate veteran Lanier Basketball Coach Thomas
71 Billups for his 8th State Title and the Lanier High School
72 Bulldogs Boys Basketball Team for their third consecutive Class 4A
73 State Championship and for their Mississippi High School
74 Activities Association Grand Slam Overall State Title and extend
75 to them best wishes for their future success.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
77 furnished to Coach Billups and to the members of the Capitol Press
78 Corps.