

By: Senator(s) Mettetal

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 523

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 SOUTH PANOLA HIGH SCHOOL "TIGERS" FOOTBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH
3 RICKY WOODS FOR BREAKING THE MISSISSIPPI RECORD OF 52 CONSECUTIVE
4 VICTORIES AND SETTING A NEW STATE RECORD OF 60.

5 WHEREAS, in the 2006 football season, the South Panola High
6 School "Tigers" Football Team continued to produce the best high
7 school football teams and players in Mississippi through its
8 tradition of hard work and hard hitting; and

9 WHEREAS, South Panola High School, often referred to as the
10 University of South Panola, defeated Columbus 42-0 on Friday,
11 October 6, 2006, before an estimated crowd of 4,000 in
12 Batesville's Tiger Stadium, for a Mississippi record of 52
13 consecutive victories. South Panola surpassed the record set by
14 Hamilton in the years 1979-1983; and

15 WHEREAS, "What it represents more than anything else is a lot
16 of hard work," South Panola Coach Ricky Woods said. "Our kids pay
17 a price to be successful. I can't imagine that anybody, anywhere,
18 works harder. To win this many straight in Class 5A is pretty
19 amazing"; and

20 WHEREAS, the previous record holder, Hamilton High School,
21 competed in Class 1A, while South Panola plays in 5A, the state's
22 largest high school classification. South Panola, with an
23 enrollment of about 1200 students, often competes against much
24 larger schools from bigger cities. Nevertheless, the Tigers
25 haven't lost since December 4, 2002, when Wayne County beat them
26 21-14 for the State Championship. South Panola had won 14
27 straight before that; and

28 WHEREAS, Woods, in his fifth year at South Panola, has won a
29 remarkable 66 of 67 games, an achievement he modestly credits to
30 his players, his assistant coaches and to a community that has
31 thrown full-fledged support behind the mighty Tigers; and

32 WHEREAS, South Panola's victory streak includes the following
33 highlights: No. 1: August 28, 2003, beat Clarksdale 43-0; No.
34 15: December 5, 2003, beat Oak Grove 33-14 to win the Class 5A
35 State Championship and school's third state title and first since
36 1998; No. 9: in final *USA Today* rankings; No. 30: December 3,
37 2004, beat Ocean Springs 39-21 to win second straight Class 5A
38 State Title and broke the record for the longest winning streak by
39 a 5A school; No. 7: in final *USA Today* rankings; No. 45:
40 December 9, 2005, beat Meridian 51-14 to become first team to win
41 three-straight Class 5A State Championships; No. 6: in final *USA*
42 *Today* rankings; No. 51: September 29, 2006, beat Columbus 41-0 in
43 Batesville to establish a state record; No. 60: December 1, 2006,
44 beat Meridian 28-21 in Class 5A State Championship; and

45 WHEREAS, Mark Weaver, who coaches South Panola's defensive
46 ends, stated, "Our kids are throwbacks. They're country kids. A
47 lot of them live on dirt roads. They don't have cars, but they
48 absolutely love to play football. They'll do anything in the
49 world you ask them"; and

50 WHEREAS, this team means everything in terms of community
51 pride and bringing people together. Where South Panola football
52 is concerned, everybody is a Tiger in Batesville, Mississippi; and

53 WHEREAS, this program's state-record winning streak has now
54 reached 60 games with its fourth straight 15-0 season
55 ("four-closure") by beating Meridian 28-21 in the Class 5A
56 Championship game in Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium before
57 a crowd of 14,000 on Friday, December 1, 2006. The Tigers
58 survived a relentless comeback effort from Meridian in this
59 thriller, which means the team will take their state-record streak
60 into their 2007 opener at the Red Carpet Bowl in Vicksburg. South

61 Panola's six state championships match the State Championship
62 record set by Weir High School; and

63 WHEREAS, in Coach Woods' five-year stint at South Panola High
64 School, a 21-14 loss to Wayne County in the 2002 State
65 Championship is the only blemish in an otherwise perfect record of
66 66-1; and

67 WHEREAS, this latest chapter in the Tiger dynasty is probably
68 the most satisfying of all for the incredibly successful coach and
69 program which is a credit to the community itself, and which has
70 produced young men who have brought honor to their school, their
71 community and to the State of Mississippi:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
73 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
74 we do hereby commend and congratulate the South Panola High School
75 "Tigers" Football Team and Head Coach Ricky Woods for breaking the
76 Mississippi statewide record of 52 consecutive victories and
77 setting a new state record of 60 straight wins, and extend to the
78 team the best wishes of the Legislature for their future academic
79 and athletic successes.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
81 Coach Ricky Woods on behalf of the Tigers and be made available to
82 the Superintendent of South Panola High School and to members of
83 the Capitol Press Corps.