

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

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 616

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING VETERAN
2 LANIER BASKETBALL COACH THOMAS BILLUPS FOR HIS 8TH STATE TITLE AND
3 THE LANIER HIGH SCHOOL "BULLDOGS" FOR THEIR 3RD CONSECUTIVE CLASS
4 4A 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. Years from now, fans will talk about the day Coach
13 Billups won his 500th victory, his MHSAA-record eighth Boys State
14 Title and his third in a row at the Mississippi Coliseum. In 16
15 seasons, Billups has coached in 13 State Finals, including 9 in a
16 row. By virtue of his third straight Class 4A State Championship,
17 he has surpassed Gulfport's legendary Bert Jenkins for the most
18 Mississippi High School Activities Association Boys State Titles
19 with eight. Coach Billups, 54, has built a hoops machine on Maple
20 Street in Jackson; 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 Terry Church added 20 points and Benjamin George added 16 for the
27 Bulldogs, who have won a state-record 16 State Championships.
28 R.L. Horton is a "real winner"; and

29 WHEREAS, the greatest tribute to Coach Billups is what his
30 players and former players say about him, the father-figure and
31 nurturing comments that he makes. In the dressing room after this
32 come-from-behind victory against New Hope, Coach Billups told his
33 team "The way you came back today -- that's why I tell you to keep
34 playing and don't give up. And you didn't. That's what they call
35 champions," which was met with a roar of approval from his team;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, the fiery Coach Billups will have to find another
38 tactic next year (as if shooting for a 4A four-peat in 2008 wasn't
39 enough) after his team's convincing 59-47 victory over archrival
40 Provine High School to complete the MHSAA's first tournament of
41 champions in 25 years before an announced crowd of 1,599 at the
42 BancorpSouth Arena on Saturday, March 17, 2007. Dandy Dozen
43 Senior R.L. Horton capped one of the winningest careers in
44 Mississippi high school history with a game-high 25 points as the
45 Bulldogs finished 39-3, eight days after taking home their third
46 consecutive Class 4A State Championship at the Mississippi
47 Coliseum. "This was a big day for our team, our school and our
48 community," Coach Billups said. "When you have all the state
49 champions play to see who comes out on top, that ought to tell
50 everybody we're No. 1"; and

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

53	Season	Ranking
54	2006-2007	1st
55	2005-2006	1st
56	2004-2005	1st
57	2003-2004	2nd
58	2002-2003	2nd
59	2001-2002	2nd
60	2000-2001	3rd
61	1999-2000	4th

62	1998-1999	1st
63	1997-1998	NR
64	1996-1997	1st
65	1995-1996	1st
66	1994-1995	15th
67	1993-1994	4th
68	1992-1993	1st
69	1991-1992	14th

70 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
71 championship team and the accomplishments of this remarkable Coach
72 who have brought honor to their school, their community and to the
73 State of Mississippi:

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
75 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
76 we do hereby commend and congratulate veteran Lanier Basketball
77 Coach Thomas Billups for his 8th State Title and the Lanier High
78 School "Bulldogs" Boys Basketball Team for their third consecutive
79 Class 4A State Championship and for their Mississippi High School
80 Activities Association "Grand Slam" Overall State Title and extend
81 to them the best wishes of the Legislature for their future
82 successes.

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
84 Coach Billups for the team and be made available to the Capitol
85 Press Corps.