

By: Representatives Rushing, Shirley

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 2014 NEWTON COUNTY ACADEMY GENERALS FOOTBALL TEAM AND VETERAN HEAD
3 COACH ROBERT ROBERTS FOR WINNING THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF
4 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS CLASS A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, the Newton County Academy Generals Football Team
6 clinched the championship victory 7-6 against the University
7 Academy of Central Louisiana Lions Football Team in an epic,
8 hard-fought defensive battle that had fans on the edge of their
9 seats until the last down was played in Robinson-Hale Stadium on
10 the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi; and

11 WHEREAS, finishing with an 11-3 record, the Generals, who had
12 a superior season that was driven by more than just the yearning
13 to succeed, intensely amplified all of their hard-work, motivation
14 and audacity, which were so apparent all through the season, for
15 the game that ultimately separated the men from the boys to
16 collect the school's first Mississippi Association of Independent
17 Schools Class A State Football Championship; and

18 WHEREAS, the grueling championship game was unlike any other
19 game the Generals had played because throughout their regular



20 season, the Generals had become accustomed to long touchdown runs,
21 key tackles, impressive comebacks, clutch performances, and
22 delivering punishment, but the championship game was a test of the
23 true Newton County Academy stamina, as it consisted of brutal
24 physicality in the trenches and required the Generals to endure
25 some of the punishment they had been handing out all season in
26 order to be triumphant and capture the most esteemed and cherished
27 honor throughout the football programs in the Mississippi
28 Association of Independent Schools; and

29 WHEREAS, the hard work and determination of the parsimonious
30 defense, who held the Lions to just 106 yards of total offense in
31 the game and came together to stop the powerful Lions when the
32 game was on the line, reiterated the age-old saying, "Defense wins
33 championships."; and

34 WHEREAS, the championship game strategy was for the team to
35 rely heavily on their proficient and swift running game, but the
36 Generals miraculously broke a scoreless tie two plays into the
37 second half when Jordan Jones made an astonishing
38 over-the-shoulder catch of a Braden Smith pass and stole 55 yards
39 for a touchdown that framed the difference between victory and
40 defeat for the Generals; and

41 WHEREAS, the all-important extra point attempt by Dustin
42 Alsup, whose swift and precise leg was a huge asset to the
43 Generals' successful season, provided Newton County Academy with a
44 7-0 lead; and



45 WHEREAS, deep into the 3rd quarter, when the Lions were
46 threatening to score, Newton County Academy defensive end Brandon
47 Horn made a ferociously pivotal play when he abruptly raced into
48 the Lions' backfield, the enemy's territory, and overcame and
49 tackled the quarterback for a 13-yard loss, which turned the ball
50 over to the Generals on downs; and

51 WHEREAS, after the Lions scored on a short run late in the
52 4th quarter, the Generals' Brandon Harrison and Dustin Alsup
53 fervently defended their field and heroically blocked the 2-point
54 conversion run a half-yard short of the goal line to secure the
55 mighty Generals their first state championship victory; and

56 WHEREAS, the Generals' competent and speedy offense, who
57 constantly played with clear eyes, full hearts, and unimaginable
58 amounts of strength throughout the season, only needed 81 rushing
59 yards and 136 yards of total offense to prevail over the Lions,
60 with Dustin Alsup leading the charge by amassing 48 rushing yards
61 on 16 attempts, the most rushing yards in the game, while Jordan
62 Jones had 14 vital carries for 42 yards; and

63 WHEREAS, throughout their season of play, the Generals faced
64 off with some of the state's best contenders on the gridiron, but
65 persevered to make their presence and talent known as gladiators
66 of football under the Friday night lights; and

67 WHEREAS, the 2014 Newton County Academy team's statistics
68 were impressive, and there were outstanding performances by



69 individual players, but the key to this team's consistent success
70 is the constant team atmosphere and year-round hard work; and

71 WHEREAS, the Newton County Academy Generals, who played with
72 nothing but heart and soul all season, have a very talented and
73 distinguished roster, and each player made a substantial
74 contribution during the season that led to the most historic
75 season in the history of Newton County Academy, which formed its
76 first football team in 1972; and

77 WHEREAS, the fans, basked in a rainbow of red, white and
78 gold, rallied behind their beloved Generals, filling the stands
79 with their bodies as well as their spirit and encouragement each
80 Friday night and, actually unable to contain their excitement and
81 enthusiasm any longer, spilled out of the stands to cheer along
82 the fence behind the Newton County Academy bench at Robinson-Hale
83 Stadium for the championship game; and

84 WHEREAS, the 2014 state championship Generals football team
85 also received glowing support from all of the players who had come
86 before them, who had played hundreds of Friday night games and
87 sweated through countless, hard-hitting hours in practice hoping
88 that the long-established dream of Newton County Academy winning
89 the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools Class A State
90 Football Championship Game would become a reality; and

91 WHEREAS, the 2014 Newton County Academy roster, filled with
92 players whose dedication and athletic prowess helped them win the
93 championship game, is comprised of the following athletes: Chance



94 Collins, Jordan Smith, Hunter Terrell, Garrett Hollingsworth,
95 Hunter Parker, Braden Smith, Andy Barnett, Zach Joyner, Dustin
96 Alsup, Jordan Jones, Ethan Parker, Braxton Rose, Gunnar Bounds,
97 Joshua Terrell, Bailey McDill, Logan Tadlock, Ty Alderman, Trey
98 Kellum, Dalton Hollingsworth, Brandon Harrison, Patrick Bounds,
99 Will Boswell, Dawson Blackledge, Matt Moore, Chris Cook, Hayden
100 Pace, Cole Killen, Ashton Crosby, Richard Horton and Brandon Horn;
101 and

102 WHEREAS, the cheerleaders, comprised of Megan Todd, Amanda
103 Creekmore, Jodi Bailey, Cheyenne Kelly, Brittany Harrison, Baleigh
104 Ellis, Alexis Tindall, Bethany Wellerman, Haley Griffin and
105 mascot, Gigi Hitt, helped crown the Generals as state champions by
106 constantly rooting for the players and encouraging the fans to
107 emit their pride and exaltation for the players on Friday nights;
108 and

109 WHEREAS, the assistant coaches, who helped the players reach
110 their fullest potential on and off the field are as follows: Rob
111 Roberts, Tommy Mathews, James Williams, Kelly Alderman and Tanner
112 Smith; and

113 WHEREAS, the Generals have been superbly coached and inspired
114 by Head Coach Robert Roberts, who has broadened the Generals'
115 knowledge of the game and refined their skills in execution during
116 his nine year tenure at Newton County Academy; and

117 WHEREAS, Coach Roberts continues to build upon the legacy of
118 superior play and true sportsmanship forged by the tenacious and



119 undaunted spirit of each team member, as evidenced in his ability
120 to produce high caliber players and plays and by the team's
121 successful season; and

122 WHEREAS, the team's journey to the state title game was an
123 inspiring one, as the Generals played through much adversity
124 during the year and rallied around teammate Brandon Harrison, who
125 lost his older brother Brad to an untimely death just before the
126 season began; and

127 WHEREAS, after Brad Harrison's death, the Generals began
128 attending church together on Sundays, and they have since attended
129 several church services around the county together, something
130 players and coaches said has made a difference on and off the
131 field; and

132 WHEREAS, Newton County Academy dedicated the season to Brad
133 Harrison and retired his jersey number, which fatefully was number
134 7, the exact number of points the 2014 Newton County Academy
135 Generals Football Team needed to score to win its first
136 Mississippi Association of Independent Schools Class A State
137 Football Championship Game; and

138 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
139 and honor the achievements of student athletes such as the Newton
140 County Academy Generals Football Team who have brought honor to
141 their school, their community, and to the State of Mississippi:

142 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
143 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING



144 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the Newton
145 County Academy Generals Football Team and veteran Head Coach
146 Robert Roberts for winning the Mississippi Association of
147 Independent Schools Class A State Football Championship, their
148 first state title, and extend best wishes to the team and coaches
149 for continued success in all of their future athletic and academic
150 endeavors.

151 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
152 furnished to Head Coach Robert Roberts and to the members of the
153 Capitol Press Corps.

