

By: Representatives Touchstone, Barker,
Frierson, Johnson (87th), Morgan, Pigott

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 SUMRALL HIGH SCHOOL BOBCATS BASEBALL TEAM UPON WINNING THE
3 MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION CLASS 3A STATE
4 BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, the Sumrall Bobcats can only be described as utterly
6 dominating on May 23, 2015, when they won their fifth Mississippi
7 High School Activities Association Class 3A State Baseball
8 Championship, having previously won four consecutive championships
9 from 2008-2011 and seven South State titles in the past eight
10 years; and

11 WHEREAS, the team was incredibly motivated this year, namely
12 due to a tremendous group of seniors who experienced winning South
13 State so many times that it was commonplace, but had yet to go to
14 a state championship; and

15 WHEREAS, never taking victory for granted, the Bobcats with a
16 31-4 record opened the state championship series against Belmont,
17 a team competing in the state championship for the very first
18 time; and



19 WHEREAS, Head Coach Larry Knight started a dynasty within his
20 own family with all three of his sons matriculating through the
21 Sumrall baseball team, one a current senior and the younger a
22 valuable player in his own right; and

23 WHEREAS, a team with an outstanding arm, the Bobcats have six
24 pitchers who Coach Knight would feel confident in sending to the
25 mound in any given situation, with an earned-run average of 1.41,
26 making this selection one of his toughest decisions during every
27 game of this season; and

28 WHEREAS, when Coach Knight finds players who are on the top
29 and at peak performance and condition, he relies on them, and
30 Bobcats junior outfielder, Trace Jordan, is just such a
31 competitor, batting .434 with seven home runs, 17 doubles and 51
32 RBIs this season; and

33 WHEREAS, this epic season was only diminished by four losses,
34 and this most excellent record is due to the fact that Coach
35 Knight trained his team with difficult nonregion play that
36 included the Louisville Slugger Select Classic in Atlanta; and

37 WHEREAS, the second game of the Class 3A State Championship
38 against Belmont was a dominating 6-0 victory that can be credited
39 to Drake Nightengale who demanded the ball from Coach Knight prior
40 to the game; and

41 WHEREAS, the placement and success of Nightengale truly is
42 astonishing as this was his first start of the season, but Coach



43 Knight promised that when the game was do-or-die, he would call on
44 Nightengale; and

45 WHEREAS, after battling through the season, the Bobcats
46 showed up at the series focused and ready to "play hard, play
47 gritty" as described by Nightengale, understanding that no team
48 can win simply by showing up; and

49 WHEREAS, on the final night of the state championship series,
50 Joseph McLaurin rescued the team from a bases-loaded jam in the
51 first inning and proceeded to cruise the rest of the way through
52 his natural drive and determination, carrying the Bobcats to a 7-2
53 victory at Trustmark Park; and

54 WHEREAS, also earning praise for this finale, Trace Jordan
55 drove in four runs with a double and three singles, and Alex
56 Knight had two runs on a single; and

57 WHEREAS, as nerves flared, players can attest that a focus on
58 the fundamentals of the game is what carried them through,
59 including knowing when to make bunts if necessary, and this basic
60 technique by Jordan moved runners into scoring positions and gave
61 confidence to the entire team and staff; and

62 WHEREAS, after the game concluded with such a decisive
63 victory, the seniors were at a loss for words, filled with emotion
64 as they realized that after two years of making it to the state
65 championship but not capitalizing and winning, they finally got
66 into the game, relaxed, had some of the best fun of their lives
67 and won, exactly like they knew they could; and



68 WHEREAS, the 2015-2016 season will be a new journey for the
69 Sumrall Bobcats, after a triumphant end to their season; Sumrall
70 will be moving up to the Class 4A Division which will mean new
71 competitive schools and challenges, but also new opportunities;
72 and

73 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
74 and honor the achievements of student athletes such as the Sumrall
75 High School Bobcats Baseball Team, who have brought honor to their
76 school, their community, and to the State of Mississippi:

77 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
78 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
79 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the Sumrall
80 High School Bobcats Baseball Team and Head Coach Larry Knight for
81 winning the Mississippi High School Activities Association Class
82 3A State Baseball Championship, their fifth title in eight years,
83 and extend best wishes to the team and coaches for continued
84 success in all of their future athletic and academic endeavors.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
86 furnished to Head Coach Larry Knight, Sumrall High School and to
87 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

