

By: Representatives Mims, Mangold,
Cockerham, Myers, Pigott

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 87

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE MENS BASKETBALL TEAM UPON
3 THE TRIUMPHANT OCCASION OF WINNING THE 2016 MISSISSIPPI
4 ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, on February 25, 2016, the Southwest Mississippi
6 Community College Bears Mens Basketball Team won the 2016
7 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges State
8 Championship, hoisting the championship trophy for the first time
9 since the 1962-1963 season; and

10 WHEREAS, the Bears epitomized exceptional team play
11 throughout the season, finishing the season with an accomplished
12 17-8 record and earning the number three seed in the South
13 Division playoffs; and

14 WHEREAS, entering the playoffs the Bears continued to rely on
15 a variety of contributors on the road to the championship and in
16 the first round they defeated Northwest Mississippi Community
17 College 86-80, led by Rodrick Sikes with 27 points; and

18 WHEREAS, the semifinals found the Bears facing the East
19 Mississippi Community College Lions, and the Bears being led by



20 Terrel Miller, who scored 20 points and had 13 rebounds, outlasted
21 the Lions 61-51; and

22 WHEREAS, in the finals the Bears had to contend with their
23 last impediment to immortality, the Jones County Junior College
24 Bobcats, who proved their mettle and forced Southwest to overtime
25 before the Bears ultimately rose to the challenge and defeated the
26 Bobcats 94-83, earning them the coveted MACJC State Championship;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, the Southwest Community College Bears earned this
29 prized distinction over the course of the season that included
30 contributions from many different players, additionally the Bears
31 benefitted from the exceptional leadership of their coaches, Head
32 Coach Mr. Thomas Gray, who began this campaign by emphasizing the
33 importance of team play and was supported in their journey by
34 Assistant Coaches Mr. Andy Farrell and Mr. Mike DuBose; and

35 WHEREAS, the players who proved to be the state's best
36 include: Terrel Miller, James Hawthorne, Lafayette Rutledge,
37 LeDerrius Simmons, Chris McIntosh, Joseph Coleman, Guy Johnson,
38 Zach Barnes, Mario Doyle, Sean Smith, Emanuel Thompson, Ben Howze,
39 Bryce Baker and Roderick Sikes; they were aided in their pursuit
40 of glory by student assistants Gregory Henderson, Flozell Johnson,
41 Donnie Thibodeaux and the Bears athletic trainer Keith Raybon; and

42 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
43 and honor the achievements of student athletes such as the
44 Southwest Community College Mens Basketball Team who have brought



45 honor to their school, their community and to the State of
46 Mississippi:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
48 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
49 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the Southwest
50 Community College Mens Basketball Team and Head Coach Mr. Thomas
51 Gray for completing an outstanding season and upon winning the
52 2016 Mississippi Association of Junior and Community Colleges
53 State Championship, and extend best wishes to the team and their
54 coaches for continued success in all of their future athletic and
55 academic endeavors.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
57 furnished to the Bears Head Coach Mr. Thomas Gray, Southwest
58 Mississippi Community College President Dr. Steve Bishop, Vice
59 President for Student Affairs/Athletic Director Dr. Bill Ashley
60 and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

