

By: Representative Weathersby

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 90

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING JOEY  
2 BRINSON UPON COMPETING FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN  
3 WHEELCHAIR FENCING AT THE 2016 SUMMER PARALYMPIC GAMES IN RIO DE  
4 JANEIRO, BRAZIL, AND FOR HIS NUMEROUS OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE  
5 SPORT.

6 WHEREAS, Joey Brinson, a resident of Florence, Mississippi,  
7 and a marvelous wheelchair fencer, was one of only two American  
8 wheelchair fencers to compete for the United States of America at  
9 the 2016 Summer Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from  
10 September 7-18, 2016; and

11 WHEREAS, the Rio Paralympic Games gave Joey his second  
12 opportunity to represent his country at the highest level of the  
13 sport, as he also competed in the 2012 London Paralympic Games for  
14 Wheelchair Fencing (saber), where he placed 14th; and

15 WHEREAS, after a car accident left him a paraplegic at age  
16 17, the Florence High School football standout had to come to  
17 terms with a lifetime in a wheelchair, so he decided to find  
18 another outlet for his athleticism, and after his efforts at sled  
19 hockey, wheelchair racing, and snow skiing through the extensive



20 adaptive sports program at Methodist Rehabilitation Center (MRC)  
21 in Jackson proved to be futile, his introduction to wheelchair  
22 fencing in 2006 rekindled his competitive spirit and literally  
23 expanded his world; and

24 WHEREAS, since becoming a charter member of the MRC Blade  
25 Rollers, the nation's largest wheelchair fencing team, Joey has  
26 become an icon and legend in the world of wheelchair fencing,  
27 which has taken him to 15 different countries and numerous  
28 international competitions; and

29 WHEREAS, Joey credits his love of wheelchair fencing and his  
30 success in the sport to MRC, which has provided equipment,  
31 coaching and travel funding while Joey has provided the hard work  
32 it takes to progress in a sport that is still relatively new in  
33 America; and

34 WHEREAS, after his first World Cup in Montreal in 2009 did  
35 not go as he expected, Joey began spending more time with local  
36 fencing coach David Williams of Ridgeland, Mississippi, and  
37 Maestro Les Stawicki of Louisville, Kentucky, who is the head of  
38 the United States Paralympic Fencing Team and a recent inductee to  
39 the United States Fencing Hall of Fame; and

40 WHEREAS, Joey has earned several international fencing  
41 medals, including two silvers at the Americas Zonal Championship  
42 and a silver at the Pan American Wheelchair Championship, and he  
43 is currently ranked number one in the United States in Men's Saber  
44 and number 17 in the world in Category B Men's Saber; and



WHEREAS, Ginny Boydston of Jackson, Mississippi, the team manager for the United States Wheelchair Fencing Team, is part of the reason Joey has accomplished so much in wheelchair fencing, as she introduced wheelchair fencing to Mississippi through her role as the therapeutic recreation director for MRC; and

WHEREAS, another Florence High School graduate and fellow wheelchair fencer at the London games, Ryan Estep, helped Joey prepare and practice for the Rio games while Ginny worked on getting Joey a uniform, securing hubcap covers and making travel plans; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the hours Joey trains to compete in prestigious international competitions, he also inspires those around him who are in a similar position, including Ryan Estep and Graceyn Thrailkill, the daughter of his girlfriend, Holly Thrailkill; and

WHEREAS, Graceyn was paralyzed in 2008 when her family's van was hit by a drunk driver, but with the help of Joey's coaching, she has been able to win two gold medals in wheelchair fencing at the State Games of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize and commend the lives of fine Mississippi athletes, especially those such as Joey Brinson, whose dedication and triumph has inspired all Mississippians, both young and old, to strive for excellence, regardless of their circumstances, in all facets of



69 their lives, bringing glory and honor to the Florence Community  
70 and this great Magnolia State:

71       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
72 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
73 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Joey Brinson  
74 upon competing for the United States of America in wheelchair  
75 fencing at the 2016 Summer Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro,  
76 Brazil, and for his numerous other achievements in the sport, and  
77 express deepest wishes for continued success in all of his future  
78 endeavors.

79       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
80 furnished to Joey Brinson and to the members of the Capitol Press  
81 Corps.

