

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Michel, Watson To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

1 A RESOLUTION PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE OLE MISS SOFTBALL TEAM,
2 HEAD COACH MIKE SMITH AND STAR PITCHER KAITLIN LEE FOR WINNING THE
3 SEC CHAMPIONSHIP, HOSTING AND WINNING THE NCAA REGIONAL
4 CHAMPIONSHIP, AND ADVANCING TO THE SUPER REGIONALS FOR THE FIRST
5 TIME IN SCHOOL HISTORY.

6 WHEREAS, the Ole Miss Softball Team made a significant
7 breakthrough in the 2017 season. For the first time in school
8 history, the Ole Miss Softball Team, led by Head Coach Mike Smith
9 and his staff, won their first-ever SEC Title and clinched their
10 first-ever Super Regional appearance with a 7-2 win over North
11 Carolina on May 21, 2017, to win their NCAA Regional Championship
12 in front of a crowd of 1,709 fans, a program record, with many
13 fans following the game outside the stadium; and

14 WHEREAS, the Rebels (43-18) capped off what turned into a
15 memorable weekend in Oxford that saw two record crowds and almost
16 5,000 fans cross through the gates of the Ole Miss Softball
17 Complex. Through three games in the regional, Ole Miss allowed
18 only two runs, and piled on 17 to claim its seventh-straight win;
19 and



20 WHEREAS, as has been the case for the latter part of the
21 season, the Rebels relied on the arm of Kaitlin Lee, who again
22 earned her way to another stellar victory. She threw her school
23 record 12th-straight complete game, and allowed only two runs off
24 five hits, with six strikeouts to settle in after the first two
25 innings. Lee had been on a roll since the regular season ended.
26 Since the start of the SEC Tournament, she won seven consecutive
27 games, pitched every inning of all seven, and allowed five runs in
28 47 innings. Kaitlin has been the main character in Ole Miss'
29 surprising run to a Super Regional; and

30 WHEREAS, offensively, Elantra Cox again paved the way going
31 3-for-3, while Brittany Finney had the go-ahead, 2-run blast in
32 the six that gave the Rebels the lead. Senior Miranda Strother,
33 in potentially her final home game as a Rebel, made it a big one
34 with a 3-for-4 performance and two RBIs and two runs scored; and

35 WHEREAS, as a team the Rebels finished the Regional weekend
36 outscoring its three opponents 17-2, and trailed only once for
37 three innings in the Championship Game; and

38 WHEREAS, at the Regional, junior RHP Kaitlin Lee continued
39 her dominating streak of 12 consecutive complete games, which
40 further extends her school record. She capped the weekend with
41 only the two runs allowed on Sunday, and threw two shutouts,
42 struck out 11, and surrendered only 12 hits. Kaitlin has also
43 tied Madi Osias' single-season record from a year ago with her



44 23rd game, and tied Amanda Fine's single-season school record with
45 26 complete games; and

46 WHEREAS, Ole Miss, which played in its first-ever Super
47 Regional, began playing softball in 1997. In their first 18
48 seasons, the Rebels posted a winning record twice. The challenges
49 were apparent right away. "Sometimes it's just the perfect
50 synergy of people that you put together. Just the culture Coach
51 Mike Smith created, the environment he created has led to some
52 phenomenal success. He is an amazing coach," first Coach Joyce
53 Maudie said. "This is exactly what I envisioned would happen with
54 the Ole Miss softball program back in 1995 when I was initially
55 talking about the program and the future of it." For the Rebels,
56 that future is here; and

57 WHEREAS, the Ole Miss "Rebels" 2017 Softball Team Roster is:
58 Gabby Alvarez, 1B/3B; Kylan Becker, OF; Morgan Bruce, RHP; Raven
59 Campos, UT; Bry Castro, 2B; Alyssa Clayton, LHP; Elantra Cox, OF;
60 Brittany Finney, RHP/1B; Alyssa Gonzalez, 1B; Kaylee Horton, UT;
61 Elisha Jahnke, RHP; Ashton Lampton, SS/3B; Kaitlin Lee, RHP;
62 Kennedy Legg, C; Grayce Majam, 2B; Dakota Matiko, 3B/1B; Paige
63 McKinney, UT; Dominique Salinas, OF; Alex Schneider, 1B; Dylinn
64 Stancil, INF; Allison Stark, OF; Miranda Strother, OF; Courtney
65 Syrett, C; and Sarah Van Schaik, C; Head Coach Mike Smith;
66 Associate Head Coach Ruben Felix; Assistant Coach/Pitching Coach
67 Taryne Mowatt; Volunteer Assistant/Camp Coordinator Katie
68 Rietkovich; Director of Operations Jody Davidson; Athletic



69 Trainer, Brittany Ferrell; Strength and Conditioning, Anna Kuzan;
70 Assistant Director of Academic Support, Sheila Padgett; Managers:
71 Kayla Holland, Jessica Ricks, Kelsey Shaw, Daniel Rowland, Zach
72 Coutee and Tess Soefje; and

73 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
74 special Mississippi university team which has brought pride to
75 their university, their community and to the State of Mississippi:

76 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
77 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby pay tribute to the 2017 Ole Miss
78 Softball Team, Head Coach Mike Smith and Star Pitcher Kaitlin Lee
79 for winning the SEC Championship, hosting and winning the NCAA
80 Regional Championship and advancing to the Super Regionals for the
81 first time in school history, and extend our best wishes for
82 future success.

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
84 Head Coach Mike Smith and Chancellor Jeffrey S. Vitter, forwarded
85 to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning,
86 and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

