

By: Representatives Rogers (61st), Baker,
Gipson, Powell, Weathersby

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 PEARL HIGH SCHOOL PIRATES FOOTBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH JOHN PERRY
3 FOR WINNING THE SCHOOL'S FIRST MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
4 ASSOCIATION CLASS 6A STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, the Pearl High School Pirates Football Team and Head
6 Coach John Perry have completed a perfect 16-0 regular season and
7 reigned supreme throughout the playoffs to win the Mississippi
8 High School Activities Association Class 6A State Football
9 Championship; and

10 WHEREAS, the Pirates, who had a superior season that was
11 driven by more than just the yearning to succeed, intensely
12 amplified all of their hard work, motivation and audacity, which
13 were so apparent all through the season, for the game that
14 ultimately separated the men from the boys to edge out Starkville
15 High School and collect the school's first Mississippi Association
16 of Independent Schools Class 6A State Football Championship; and

17 WHEREAS, the championship game was a test of the true Pirate
18 stamina, as it consisted of brutal physicality in the trenches and



19 back and forth scores that kept fans on the edge of their seats
20 until the last down was played in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium; and

21 WHEREAS, with the Pirates trailing 14-9 at halftime, Coach
22 Perry challenged his players to give their best in the second
23 half, and that is exactly what they did, as Johnny Winston put his
24 team back on top in the fourth with a 5-yard touchdown run; and

25 WHEREAS, after a late field goal, Starkville went up 17-15,
26 and likely would have won if the best football player in the state
27 did not play for Pearl, so when coach put the ball in the hands of
28 Tylan Knight, he rushed up the middle and into the end zone with
29 just 1:06 remaining on the clock to bring the score to 21-17 and
30 ultimately solidify the dreams of the Pirate family; and

31 WHEREAS, since they were in eighth grade, the Pirate seniors
32 have been told that they would be the best class to ever play
33 football for the navy and old gold, and on Friday, December 1,
34 2017, they proved everyone right when they held the Gold Ball
35 trophy high after a well fought battle; and

36 WHEREAS, throughout their season of play, the Pirates faced
37 off with some of the state's best contenders on the gridiron, but
38 persevered to make their presence and talent known as gladiators
39 of football under the Friday night lights; and

40 WHEREAS, the Pearl High School Pirates' statistics were
41 impressive, and there were outstanding performances by individual
42 players, but the key to this team's consistent success has been
43 the constant team atmosphere and year-round hard work; and



44 WHEREAS, the Pirates, who played with nothing but heart and
45 soul all season, have a very talented and distinguished roster,
46 and each player made a substantial contribution that led to the
47 most historic season in the history of Pearl High School; and

48 WHEREAS, Head Coach John Perry has superbly coached and
49 inspired the Pirates and broadened their knowledge of the game
50 while refining their skills in execution, and he continues to
51 build upon the legacy of superior play and true sportsmanship
52 forged by the tenacious and undaunted spirit of each team member,
53 as evidenced in his ability to produce high caliber players and
54 plays and by the team's successful season; and

55 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
56 and honor the achievements of student athletes such as the Pearl
57 High School Pirates Football Team, who have brought honor to their
58 school, their community, and to the State of Mississippi:

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
60 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
61 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the Pearl High
62 School Pirates Football Team and Head Coach John Perry for winning
63 the Mississippi High School Activities Association Class 6A State
64 Football Championship, their first state title, and extend best
65 wishes to the team and coaches for continued success in all of
66 their future athletic and academic endeavors.



67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
68 furnished to Head Coach John Perry and to the members of the
69 Capitol Press Corps.

