

By: Representative Barton

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 12

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE EAST CENTRAL
2 HIGH SCHOOL "HORNETS" FOOTBALL TEAM AND COACH SETH SMITH FOR
3 WINNING THEIR FIRST SOUTH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AND MAKING ITS
4 FIRST APPEARANCE IN THE MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
5 ASSOCIATION'S CLASS 4A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.

6 WHEREAS, the East Central High School "Hornets" Football Team
7 buzzed through a remarkably difficult season, and with motivation
8 and audacity, they successfully finished the 2017-2018 season with
9 an outstanding 13-1 new school record, culminating with their
10 first District Championship win in 24 years, first appearance and
11 winning a South State Championship title and first appearance at
12 the Mississippi High School Activities Association's Class 4A
13 State Championship title game; and

14 WHEREAS, the 2017-2018 Hornets Football Team clawed their way
15 through numerous Friday night games and sweated through hundreds
16 of hard-hitting hours on the field and in the weight room, hoping
17 to solidify their dreams of becoming champions, and their
18 dedication paid off, as they were handed the game-winning trophies



19 after the District Championship game and the South State
20 Championship game; and

21 WHEREAS, in addition to the trophies added to their sports
22 display case this season, the 2017-2018 Hornets became the first
23 team in school's history to win four postseason games in one
24 season, setting a new school record, and ultimately establishing
25 their spot as an elite program and proving they are a force to be
26 reckoned with; and

27 WHEREAS, throughout their season of play, the Hornets faced
28 off with some of the state's best contenders on the gridiron but
29 persevered to make their presence and talent known as gladiators
30 of football underneath the Friday night lights, only to fall short
31 of the State Championship title in an epic match of superior
32 athletes as they faced off against the formidable Noxubee County
33 High School Tigers, played at the University of Mississippi's
34 famed Vaught-Hemingway Stadium on December 2, 2017; and

35 WHEREAS, the 2017-2018 Hornets' senior athletes created a
36 storied legacy of firsts which will be difficult to overshadow by
37 any succeeding senior class, including: appearing in more than
38 five postseason games, with nine postseason appearances; winning
39 more than two postseason games, with a total of six postseason
40 wins; finishing with a winning postseason record of 6-3; having a
41 winning season for the first time in 22 years; becoming the most
42 winning senior class in the school's 59-year history with 28 wins;



43 winning more than 10 games in a season; winning a second-round
44 playoff; and appearing in a third-round playoff game; and

45 WHEREAS, the Hornets were unparalleled on defense, which was
46 commanded by the fierce and powerful defensive backs, the
47 linebackers, overflowing with strength and tenacity, the defensive
48 linemen, whose grind, fortitude and determination erected a stone
49 wall that helped secure each of East Central's 13 victories, the
50 defensive ends, whose tackles and sacks were fierce and will not
51 soon be forgotten by the opponents they met, and the safeties and
52 cornerbacks, while bursting with wit and athleticism, duped more
53 than one quarterback this season and defended long passes with
54 ease; and

55 WHEREAS, the kickers and long snappers were a huge asset to
56 the Hornets' excellent season, as they brought more than one game
57 out of the clutches of defeat and into the hands of victory; and

58 WHEREAS, basked in a flurry of maroon, white and gray, the
59 fans provided glowing support to the East Central Football Team
60 come wind, rain, heat or frost, rallying behind their beloved
61 Hornets each Friday night and filling the stands with their bodies
62 as well as their spirit and encouraging chants; and

63 WHEREAS, the East Central High School Hornets Football Team
64 has been superbly coached and inspired by Head Coach Seth Smith,
65 who has broadened the Hornets' knowledge of the game and refined
66 their skills in execution; and



67 WHEREAS, Coach Smith continues to build upon the legacy of
68 superior play and true sportsmanship forged by the tenacious and
69 undaunted spirit of each team member, as evidenced in his ability
70 to produce high caliber players and plays and by the team's
71 successful season; and

72 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives
73 that we recognize and commend this team of student-athletes who
74 have brought honor to their school, their community and to the
75 State of Mississippi:

76 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
77 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
78 commend and congratulate the East Central High School "Hornets"
79 Football Team and Head Coach Seth Smith for winning their first
80 South State Championship title and making their first appearance
81 in the Mississippi High School Activities Association's Class 4A
82 State Championship game, and extend to the team, coaches, parents
83 and sponsors our best wishes for future success.

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
85 furnished to Head Coach Seth Smith, East Central High School
86 Principal James Hughey, the Jackson County Board of Education and
87 to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

