

By: Representative Karriem

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 61

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE 2017-2018
2 COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL FALCONS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH
3 ANTHONY CARLYLE UPON WINNING THE MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL
4 ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION CLASS 6A STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP AND
5 EXTENDING BEST WISHES TO THE TEAM AND COACHES FOR CONTINUED
6 SUCCESS IN ALL OF THEIR FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

7 WHEREAS, the Columbus High School Falcons Boys Basketball
8 Team reigned supreme after finishing the 2017-2018 season with an
9 impressive record of 27 wins and 6 losses, and capturing the
10 Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) Class 6A
11 State Basketball Championship, their second in three seasons; and

12 WHEREAS, throughout the state tournament games at the
13 Mississippi Coliseum, the Falcons played with clear eyes, full
14 hearts and unimaginable amounts of strength, and in each game,
15 their mental stamina and athletic prowess never wavered from the
16 moment they first hustled onto the court until the final buzzer
17 buzzed, as they outlasted, outplayed and ultimately overpowered
18 each of their opponents; and

19 WHEREAS, to claim this illustrious victory, the Falcons
20 relied on their swift feet, accurate shooting and strategic



21 defensive moves to stop the Meridian offense and outmaneuver their
22 defense, which ultimately allowed them to bring the coveted "Gold
23 Ball" Trophy back to Columbus High School; and

24 WHEREAS, after the championship game started a little slow,
25 senior Robert Woodard II, a vocal leader on and off the court,
26 gave an inspiring pep talk to fellow senior Denijay Harris,
27 encouraging him to take the game into his hands and let the light
28 of his athletic abilities guide the team to victory; and

29 WHEREAS, Denijay clearly listened to his friend and teammate,
30 as he shot a 27-foot 3-pointer as the third quarter ended that
31 really shifted the momentum, and by the time Meridian caught their
32 breath, the Falcons had already swooped up the championship trophy
33 after a 47-37 victory and headed back east; and

34 WHEREAS, Denijay Harris had 26 points, eight rebounds and two
35 blocked shots, while Robert Woodard II, who is the Gatorade Player
36 of the Year for the State of Mississippi and a Mississippi State
37 University signee, had 12 points and 13 rebounds; and

38 WHEREAS, the 2017-2018 MHSAA Class 6A Boys Basketball State
39 Championship Team is comprised of only talented athletes, and
40 while the team statistics were impressive, and there were
41 outstanding free throws, field goals, rebounds and assists by
42 individual players, the key to this team's consistent success has
43 been the constant team atmosphere and year-round hard work; and

44 WHEREAS, the Columbus High School Falcons Boys Basketball
45 Team has been superbly coached and inspired by Head Coach Anthony



Carlyle, who has broadened the players' knowledge of the game, refined their skills in execution, and helped each player realize his fullest potential both on and off the court; and

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

WHEREAS, the members of this team will carry the unforgettable memories they made along their way to championship status, whether it be the long hours in the weight room or the grueling practices, as well as the lessons of hard work, dedication and perseverance learned during this amazing season, throughout their lives as they are constantly flooded with the feeling of greatness that accompanies being a champion; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to recognize and commend excellence, especially that displayed by the Columbus High School Falcons Boys Basketball Team, and it is with great pride that we congratulate this elite group of student athletes and Head Coach Anthony Carlyle, who have brought honor to their school, their community and to their state:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the 2017-2018 Columbus High School Falcons Boys Basketball Team and Head Coach Anthony Carlyle upon



71 winning the 2017-2018 Mississippi High School Activities
72 Association Class 6A State Basketball Championship, and extend
73 best wishes to the team and coaches for continued success in all
74 of their future endeavors.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
76 furnished to Columbus High School, Head Coach Anthony Carlyle and
77 to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

