

By: Representatives Watson, McGee

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 79

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE HATTIESBURG
2 HIGH SCHOOL LADY TIGERS BASKETBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH CARONICA
3 DEBOSE JACKSON UPON WINNING THE 2017-2018 MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL
4 ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION GIRLS CLASS 5A STATE BASKETBALL
5 CHAMPIONSHIP.

6 WHEREAS, the Hattiesburg High School Lady Tigers Basketball
7 Team reign supreme after finishing the 2017-2018 season with an
8 impressive record of 26 wins and 6 losses, and capturing the
9 Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) Girls Class
10 5A State Basketball Championship, their first title in the
11 school's history; and

12 WHEREAS, throughout the state tournament games at the
13 Mississippi Coliseum, the Lady Tigers 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 the Laurel Tornadoes 68-49 in the second round, the Neshoba
19 Central Lady Rockets 48-38 in the quarterfinals, the Lafayette



20 Lady Commodores 56-42 in the semifinals and the West Jones Lady
21 Mustangs 48-47 in the championship game; and

22 WHEREAS, to claim this illustrious victory, the Lady Tigers
23 relied on their swift feet, accurate shooting and strategic
24 defensive moves to stop the West Jones offense and outmaneuver
25 their defense, which ultimately allowed them to bring the coveted
26 "Gold Ball" Trophy back to Hattiesburg High School for the first
27 time after so many close title games; and

28 WHEREAS, the championship game truly kept fans on their feet
29 and the edge of their seats until the very end, and in the last 14
30 seconds of play, it looked as if West Jones, who had the ball and
31 a one-point lead, would be crowned champions, but the Tigers were
32 absolutely not going to succumb to defeat, so they fought to the
33 very last second, and it paid off; and

34 WHEREAS, when West Jones tried to inbound the ball after a
35 Hattiesburg turnover, Hattiesburg player Kenedi Walker made just
36 enough contact with the ball to nudge it out of the West Jones'
37 player's hand, and the ball landed at the feet of surprised and
38 determined Chelsea Ulmer; and

39 WHEREAS, with just three seconds left on the clock, Chelsea
40 picked up the ball, turned around, shot, and then swoosh, just
41 like that, the hard work and dedication of the 2017-2018 Lady
42 Tigers culminated into the first state championship for the
43 Hattiesburg High School Girls Basketball Team and deservedly, an
44 excited dog pile on the floor of the Mississippi Coliseum; and



45 WHEREAS, the 2017-2018 MHSAA Class 5A Girls Basketball State
46 Championship Team is comprised of only talented athletes, and in
47 addition to winning the coveted state championship, the Lady
48 Tigers clinched the Region 7 regular season championship by going
49 undefeated in district play and won the Region 7 district
50 tournament championship, Terralyn Ulmer was named the Region 7
51 MVP, Melyia Grayson was named the best defensive player, and Coach
52 Caronica DeBose Jackson was named the Region 7 Coach of the Year;
53 and

54 WHEREAS, the Hattiesburg High School Lady Tigers Basketball
55 Team has been superbly coached and inspired by Head Coach Caronica
56 DeBose Jackson, who has broadened the players' knowledge of the
57 game, refined their skills in execution, and helped each player
58 realize her fullest potential both on and off the court; and

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

64 WHEREAS, the members of this team will carry the
65 unforgettable memories they made along their way to championship
66 status, whether it be the long hours in the weight room or the
67 grueling practices, as well as the lessons of hard work,
68 dedication and perseverance learned during this amazing season,



69 throughout their lives as they are constantly flooded with the
70 feeling of greatness that accompanies being a champion; and

71 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
72 recognize and commend excellence, especially that displayed by the
73 Hattiesburg High School Lady Tigers Basketball Team, and it is
74 with great pride that we congratulate this elite group of student
75 athletes and Head Coach Caronica DeBose Jackson, who have brought
76 honor to their school, their community and to their state:

77 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
78 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
79 commend and congratulate the Hattiesburg High School Lady Tigers
80 Basketball Team and Head Coach Caronica DeBose Jackson upon
81 winning the 2017-2018 Mississippi High School Activities
82 Association Girls Class 5A State Basketball Championship, and
83 extend best wishes to the team and coaches for continued success
84 in all of their future endeavors.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
86 furnished to Hattiesburg High School, Head Coach Caronica DeBose
87 Jackson and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

