

By: Representative Sullivan

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 82

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE OKOLONA HIGH
2 SCHOOL CHIEFTAINS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH ARTERIA
3 CLIFTON FOR WINNING THE MHSAA CLASS 1A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

4 WHEREAS, senior members of the Okolona High School Chieftains
5 Boys Basketball Team solidified their legacy by etching their
6 names in the annals of the school's sports' history with a
7 dominating 80-59 victory over Ashland to win the Mississippi High
8 School Activities Association (MHSAA) Class 1A State Championship
9 on March 8, 2018; and

10 WHEREAS, one of the most dominant teams in Mississippi this
11 year, even outside of their designated MHSAA Class 1A
12 classification, the Okolona Chieftains Boys Basketball Team
13 ascended the scale of athletic greatness to win every playoff game
14 by at least 21 points and lost only two games all year, once to
15 Tennessee's Fayette Ware, and a narrow two-point loss to
16 Starkville, whom the Chieftains also rallied to defeat in their
17 first meeting by five points; and



18 WHEREAS, a 1995 Okolona graduate, Coach Arteria Clifton, who
19 does not often show much emotion and barely cracked a smile when
20 presented with the golden championship trophy, could be seen in
21 the third quarter jumping back in his seat and kicking his feet in
22 the air after his Chieftains forced a turnover with a double-digit
23 lead; and

24 WHEREAS, from the first possession of the game, the
25 Chieftains were swarming Ashland and making a full course press,
26 led by Cameron Smith, Jaylon Bailey and Ladarrius Spears, three
27 seniors who made good on their expectations for four years to make
28 a resounding mark in aiding the team's run to go down as one of
29 the best teams in the state; and

30 WHEREAS, the Cheiftains were exceptionally coached and
31 tremendously inspired by Head Coach Arteria Clifton, who has
32 broadened the team's knowledge of the game and refined their
33 skills in execution, and he continues to build upon the legacy of
34 superior play and true sportsmanship forged by the tenacious and
35 undaunted spirit of each team member, as evidenced in his ability
36 to produce high caliber players and plays and by the team's
37 successful season; and

38 WHEREAS, the talented 2018 Okolona High School Boys
39 Basketball Championship Team has a very distinguished roster, with
40 each player making substantial contributions on and off the hard
41 court that led to the most historic season in the history of
42 Okolona High, including: Jaylon Bailey, Kylon McCoy, Jamal Moore,



43 Brandon Young, Antonio Buchanan, Ladarrius Spears, Jacorrius
44 Stanfield, Deonte Hampton, Dontavious Doss, Tre Harvey, Jalen
45 McFarland, and Cameron Smith; and Coach Arteria Clifton; and

46 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
47 recognize and honor the achievements of student athletes such as
48 the Okolona Chieftains, who have brought honor to their school,
49 their community and to the State of Mississippi:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
51 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
52 commend and congratulate the Okolona High School Chieftains Boys
53 Basketball Team and Head Coach Arteria Clifton for winning the
54 MHSAA Class 1A State Championship and extend best wishes to the
55 team, coaches, parents and sponsors for future success in all
56 their athletic and academic endeavors.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
58 furnished to Coach Arteria Clifton and to the members of the
59 Capitol Press Corps.

