

By: Representatives Blackmon, Wilson

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 87

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE ST. ANDREW'S
2 EPISCOPAL SCHOOL SAINTS HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR
3 WINNING THEIR FIRST MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
4 (MHSAA) CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE SCHOOL'S HISTORY.

5 WHEREAS, the astonishing 2017-2018 St. Andrew's Episcopal
6 School Saints High School Boys Basketball Team broke the school's
7 athletic record and made school history when they captured the
8 school's first-ever Mississippi High School Activities Association
9 Class 3A State Championship win; and

10 WHEREAS, driven by a passion for victory and a determination
11 to take home the trophy, the Saints played with emboldened hearts
12 and un-matched athletic prowess leaving all nay-sayers in the
13 dust, and pressed forward past the school's vacant athletic
14 history to break new ground as the MHSAA Class 3A State Champions;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, early on during the fourth quarter, the team
17 shadowed their Holly Springs rivals by three points with no
18 indication that the Saints would overcome Holly Springs' lead,



19 until senior player Garrison Wade jumped five feet above his own
20 height for the putback dunk; and

21 WHEREAS, Wade's putback dunk changed the tone of the game and
22 the momentum of his team, and thereafter a newly renewed Wade
23 scored eight unanswered points, and 10 of the team's next 11
24 points; and

25 WHEREAS, due to his athletic dexterity, Wade snatched every
26 rebound and ended every critical play which led to the team's
27 48-42 victory over their rival, and ended with Wade totaling 19
28 points, 19 rebounds and three blocks; and

29 WHEREAS, ninth grade freshman player Rashad Bolden was a
30 break-out star who found himself on the free-throw line time and
31 time again in the final minutes of a one-score game, and managed
32 to remain keenly focused to pull out six consecutive free throws
33 to seal the victory on that fateful night; and

34 WHEREAS, the Saints' skills have been impressively molded by
35 Head Coach Brian Cronin, who has believed in his team from the
36 beginning, and diligently worked to expand their knowledge of the
37 game and refine their execution; and

38 WHEREAS, Assistant Coach JeMario Rugley channeled the spirit
39 of gusto and perseverance of his late father to instill
40 competitiveness and character within the players stating, "They did
41 it for themselves. They did it for St. Andrew's, and they said
42 they were gonna do it for my dad, and they did that"; and



43 WHEREAS, the 2017-2018 championship roster of the Saints High
44 School Boys Basketball Team is comprised of: Nolan Turner, G;
45 Rashad Bolden, G; Aaron Cooper, G; Fletcher Clark, G; Lleyton
46 Carr, G; Hudson Bataille, G; William Harkless, G; Hughes Boling,
47 G; Garrison Wade, G; Larry Day, G; Walter Johnson, C; Arness
48 Georgetown, C; Noel Wiggs, C; Michael John Davis and Guanyang
49 (Gary) Gao, C; and

50 WHEREAS, the team has been diligently supported by other
51 Assistant Coaches: Michael Timmer and Ontario Harper; Managers
52 Jonathan Buckley and Wynn Garriga, and Athletic Director DeWayne
53 Cupples; and

54 WHEREAS, not only are these players champions, they are also
55 scholars who work hard in their classes as critical thinkers, in
56 their school as academic mentors and in their communities as
57 positive leaders; and

58 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
59 acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of our youth that
60 set optimistic and encouraging standards for others:

61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
62 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
63 commend and congratulate the St. Andrew's Episcopal School Saints
64 High School Boys Basketball Team for winning their first MHSAA
65 Class 3A State Championship in school history.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
67 furnished to Head Coach Brian Cronin, members of the St. Andrew's



68 Episcopal School Saints High School Boys Basketball Team and to
69 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

