

By: Senator(s) Fillingane, Barnett, Caughman, Chassaniol, Dearing, DeBar, Frazier, Hopson, Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd), Kirby, McMahan, Norwood, Simmons (12th), Witherspoon

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 519

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FORMER UNIVERSITY OF
2 SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI TRACK-AND-FIELD STANDOUT AND SANDHILL NATIVE
3 TORI BOWIE FOR WINNING TWO GOLD MEDALS IN THE 2017 IAAF WORLD
4 CHAMPIONSHIPS IN LONDON, ENGLAND.

5 WHEREAS, 26-year-old Tori Bowie, former University of
6 Southern Mississippi Track-and-Field Standout, ended her
7 impressive IAAF World Championships run with two Gold Medals when
8 she anchored Team USA to victory in the 4x100-Meter Relay on
9 August 12, 2017. Tori Bowie of Sandhill, Mississippi, became the
10 first double Gold Medallist at the IAAF World Athletic
11 Championships, winning the Relay Title ahead of Britain and
12 Jamaica; and

13 WHEREAS, the team of Aaliyah Brown, Allyson Felix, Morolake
14 Akinosun, and Bowie beat Great Britain for Gold with a winning
15 time of 41.82, a current world lead. Bowie's performance took
16 place after she dove to the finish line to edge out Marie-Josée Ta
17 Lou to win the 100-Meter Final. She returned to lead the
18 Americans to victory once again. Team USA's performance took
19 place one year after winning Gold at the 2016 Olympic Games; and



20 WHEREAS, "I knew that I wanted to leave everything on the
21 line," said Bowie, who leaned hard at the finish to defeat
22 Marie-Josée Ta Lou of the Ivory Coast by one hundredth of a
23 second, in 10.85. "The dive doesn't feel too good now, but it has
24 saved me at championships in the past. I was trying to do a
25 modest lean, but for some reason I lost control of my body. I
26 thought I was a medallist, but I had no idea until the result
27 appeared on the scoreboard." It was the strangest of finals, one
28 expected to be dominated by Elaine Thompson but instead heralding
29 Bowie's arrival as a major force in sprinting. Only three years
30 prior she was still a specialist long jumper, until a sense of
31 restlessness persuaded her to switch disciplines. On this
32 evidence, as she left the best in the world flailing in her wake,
33 the decision could hardly have been better timed; and

34 WHEREAS, with her performances at this year's IAAF World
35 Championships, Bowie established herself as one of the greatest
36 and most accomplished athletes to ever call themselves a Golden
37 Eagle; and

38 WHEREAS, Tori Bowie was a three-time All-American
39 Track-and-Field Athlete at The University of Southern Mississippi.
40 She has carried the title "Fastest Woman in the World" on and off
41 for the last two years and earned three medals in her debut
42 Olympic Games in 2016. Tori Bowie entered a league of her own
43 August 19, 2016, where she anchored the United States 40x100-Meter
44 Relay Team's victory in Rio de Janeiro Olympics, becoming the



45 first Southern Miss Alum to win an Olympic Gold Medal. Bowie had
46 already captured the Silver and Bronze Medals in the 100 and 200
47 Meter, respectively; and

48 WHEREAS, one of America's great treasures was immortalized in
49 Black and Gold as the Southern Miss Department of Athletics and
50 the City of Hattiesburg proclaimed November 25, to forever be Tori
51 Bowie Day, celebrating the accomplishments of the former Golden
52 Eagle Track-and-Field Standout; and

53 WHEREAS, we join the Southern Mississippi community in
54 recognizing a legendary Mississippi athlete who has brought honor
55 to her hometown, her university and to the State of Mississippi:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
57 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
58 we do hereby recognize former University of Southern Mississippi
59 Track-and-Field Standout and Sandhill native Tori Bowie for
60 winning two Gold Medals in the 2017 IAAF World Championships in
61 London, England, and extend our best wishes to Tori on this
62 auspicious occasion.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
64 Tori Bowie and her family, forwarded to the President of The
65 University of Southern Mississippi, the Board of Trustees of State
66 Institutions of Higher Learning and the Principal of Pisgah High
67 School, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

