

By: Senator(s) Carmichael, Barnett, Dearing, To: Rules
Jackson (32nd), Watson, Norwood

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 587

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING VALERIE
2 SMITH ON BEING SELECTED AS THE 2017 STATE GAMES OF MISSISSIPPI
3 AT&T FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR.

4 WHEREAS, based on the national program, the State Games of
5 Mississippi established the annual "Athlete of the Year" Award to
6 recognize Mississippi's amateur athletes. Coaches, officials,
7 athletes, volunteers, and spectators nominated one male and one
8 female athlete from each of the 37 sports for the award. The
9 nominated athletes personify the ideals of the State Games
10 movement, such as participation, sportsmanship, special
11 attributes, achievements, efforts, and positive attitudes; and

12 WHEREAS, Valerie Smith is handy with guns. In fact, she
13 entered .22 Precision Long Rifle, 3-Gun Challenge and Pistol
14 events and was the Overall Top Shooter and High Lady in all
15 events. Valerie has been in the sport for nine years and began
16 shooting to spend more time with her husband, and now shooting is
17 her passion. "It is important for beginners to learn the heart of
18 the sport," she said. She mentors younger shooters at Battlefield



19 Shooting Range in Collinsville. A Registered Nurse, Valerie
20 volunteers with Relay for Life with East Mississippi State
21 Hospital; and

22 WHEREAS, in a male-dominated sport, she really stands out,
23 because she is always looking to top her last score. She was the
24 2017 Mississippi 3-Gun Nation State Champion High Lady. Valerie
25 is also a Firearm Instructor for concealed carry courses and to
26 receive enhanced carry endorsement; and

27 WHEREAS, this year, the State Games are honoring athletes
28 from 37 sports from the 2017 State Games of Mississippi. From
29 these 37 athletes, only three are chosen to receive the honor of
30 "Athlete of the Year." The chosen "Athletes of the Year" will
31 visit the State Capitol in Jackson, where the Governor will bestow
32 them with a recognition of their achievement and they will have
33 the honor and fame of lighting the torch at the 2018 State Games
34 of Mississippi Opening Ceremonies. The State Games keeps its
35 entry fees low primarily through the generous donations of
36 sponsors, including Founding Gold Sponsor: Meridian Coca-Cola
37 Bottling Company and Rush Hospital; and Gold Sponsors: AT&T,
38 BlueCross BlueShield of Mississippi, the Mississippi Band of
39 Choctaw Indians/Pearl River Resort, Meridian-Lauderdale County
40 Tourism Bureau/Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors, Structural
41 Steel, WTOK-TV, *The Meridian Star* and WMDN/WGBC-TV; and

42 WHEREAS, Valerie Smith is an excellent role model for a
43 balanced and healthy lifestyle. She is the perfect example of



44 fitness and dedication that the State Games of Mississippi
45 promotes, and it is with great pride that we recognize this
46 Mississippi citizen who has brought honor to her community and
47 state:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
49 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
50 we do hereby commend and congratulate Valerie Smith on being
51 selected as the 2017 State Games of Mississippi AT&T Female
52 Athlete of the Year, and extend best wishes to Valerie, her family
53 and sponsors on this honor.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
55 Valerie Smith and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

