

By: Senator(s) Jolly, Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 626

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

5 WHEREAS, senior members of the Okolona High School  
6 "Chieftains" Boys Basketball Team finally made their legacy with a  
7 dominating 80-59 victory over Ashland to win the MHSAA Class 1A  
8 State Championship on March 8, 2018; and

9 WHEREAS, the Okolona Chieftains Boys Basketball Team has been  
10 one of the most dominant teams in Mississippi this year, not just  
11 in 1A. The team won every playoff game by at least 21 and lost  
12 only two games all year: One was to Tennessee's Fayette Ware and  
13 the other was to Starkville by two. The Chieftains also defeated  
14 Starkville in the first meeting by five; and

15 WHEREAS, Coach Arteria Clifton doesn't often show much  
16 emotion. When the 1995 Okolona graduate was handed the  
17 Championship Trophy on March 8, 2018, he hardly cracked a smile,  
18 but when nobody was watching, Clifton could be seen in the third  
19 quarter jumping back in his seat and kicking his feet in the air



20 after his Chieftains forced a turnover with a double-digit lead;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, from the first possession, the Chieftains were  
23 swarming Ashland and making life difficult. When one star  
24 struggled, another one stepped up. Okolona dominated Ashland in  
25 the second half and took the 1A Championship; and

26 WHEREAS, Smith, Bailey and Spears, three seniors who made  
27 good on their expectations for four years, can say they made their  
28 mark and made sure not to make it softly. These seniors left the  
29 Mississippi Coliseum as Champions. They can go down as one of the  
30 best teams in the state; and

31 WHEREAS, the 2018 Okolona High School Boys Basketball  
32 Championship Team Roster is: Jaylon Bailey, Kylon McCoy, Jamal  
33 Moore, Brandon Young, Antonio Buchanan, Ladarrius Spears,  
34 Jacorrius Stanfield, Deonte Hampton, Dontavious Doss, Tre Harvey,  
35 Jalen McFarland, and Cameron Smith; and Coach Arteria Clifton; and

36 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize these  
37 student athletes who have brought honor to their school, their  
38 community, and to the State of Mississippi:

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
40 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
41 we do hereby commend and congratulate the Okolona High School  
42 "Chieftains" Boys Basketball Team and Head Coach Arteria Clifton  
43 for winning the MHSAA Class 1A State Championship, and extend our



44 best wishes to the team, coaches, parents and sponsors for future  
45 success.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
47 Coach Arteria Clifton for the team, forwarded to Okolona  
48 Principal, Mr. Christopher Hill, and the Okolona School Board, and  
49 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

