

By: Senator(s) Younger, Turner-Ford, Jackson To: Rules
(32nd), Norwood, Simmons (12th)

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 628

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL "FALCONS" BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM AND COACH
3 ANTHONY CARLYLE FOR WINNING THE MHSAA CLASS 6A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

4 WHEREAS, after a hard-fought battle, the Columbus High School
5 "Falcons" Boys Basketball Team brought home the Mississippi High
6 School Activities Association (MHSAA) Class 6A State Title on
7 March 10, 2018; and

8 WHEREAS, this game featured the consensus top 6A team in
9 Meridian against the top-ranked 2018 player in Robert Woodard, and
10 the defending champions against Coach Anthony Carlyle who had
11 earned four titles in five years; and

12 WHEREAS, Columbus seemed in control with a nine-point lead
13 midway through the fourth quarter of the State Championship Game,
14 but it wasn't going to come easy. Meridian inched its way back
15 through free throws and dunks to make it a four-point game.
16 Denijay Harris sprinted down the court, made his way to the basket
17 and took on all the contact to make the one layup against the
18 backboard to give Columbus the comfort it needed; and



19 WHEREAS, Columbus earned the 6A State Championship with a
20 47-37 win against No. 1 Meridian, no matter how difficult it came.
21 While Robert Woodard was still the elite player he normally is, it
22 was Denijay Harris who kept making crucial basket after crucial
23 basket. Harris put up 26 points to win it all, including 13 in
24 the fourth quarter; and

25 WHEREAS, Coach Anthony Carlyle now has five State
26 Championships in six years, this one coming in his first year at
27 Columbus and first try in 6A. Carlyle admitted there were growing
28 pains when he first took over. "Before you can coach these guys,
29 you have got to earn their trust." Since then, Columbus has been
30 dominant; and

31 WHEREAS, Casey Smith, who transferred over from West Lowndes,
32 finally got his own State Title. He played hounding defense on
33 Meridian throughout the second half. Now, Smith, Harris and
34 Robert Woodard end their careers 6A State Champions; and

35 WHEREAS, the 2018 Columbus High School "Falcons" Boys
36 Basketball Team State Championship Roster is: Blake Burnett, PG;
37 Greg King, G; Tijah McCrary, G; Eric Caldwell, G; Fred Sparks, G;
38 Casey Smith, PG; RJ Deloach, PG; Robert Woodard, SF; Denijay
39 Harris, SF; Tyrese Jones, SF; Jacob Williams, PF; Aaron Johnson,
40 G; Da'vonta Martin, SF; Jerome Sherrod, G; Tyshon Morris, G; Tyrin
41 Johnson, PF; Gabriel Williams, G; Rodrick Grays, PF; and Jemarcus
42 Moore, PF; and Head Coach Anthony Carlyle; and



43 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this group
44 of student athletes who have brought honor to their school, their
45 community and to the State of Mississippi:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
47 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
48 we do hereby commend and congratulate the Columbus High School
49 "Falcons" Boys Basketball Team and Coach Anthony Carlyle for
50 winning the Mississippi High School Activities Association Class
51 6A State Championship, and extend to the team, coaches, parents
52 and sponsors our best wishes for future success.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
54 Coach Carlyle and Columbus High School Principal Lori Cargile for
55 the team, forwarded to the Columbus School Board, and made
56 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

