

By: Senator(s) Turner-Ford, Jackson (15th),
Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 653

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 STARKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL "YELLOW JACKETS" GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM AND
3 COACH KRISTIE WILLIAMS FOR WINNING THE 2018 MHSAA CLASS 6A STATE
4 CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, the Starkville High School Yellow Jackets rode the
6 hot shooting of Kirsten Thompson and thrashed Murrah 46-27 in the
7 6A Final on March 10, 2018, at the Mississippi Coliseum; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2017, runner-up Starkville took possession of the
9 State Title when it was discovered Olive Branch had played an
10 ineligible player. This year they did not have to wait until
11 August to get their Golden Ball Trophy; and

12 WHEREAS, "The feeling is indescribable," said Kirsten
13 Thompson, who finished with a game-high 21 points. "It's
14 amazing." So was the Jackets' performance. Starkville (28-2)
15 never trailed after its first basket of the game thanks to a fast
16 start, hustling on the boards, and hot shooting in the second
17 half. Coach Kristie Williams' squad out-rebounded Murrah, which
18 had a size advantage inside with forward Jamaica Almons, by a
19 total of 34-20. Starkville outscored Murrah in every quarter and



20 held the Mustangs to single-digit scoring in every frame.
21 Thompson wasn't the only hero: Jariya Covington finished with 11
22 points and a couple of steals, and Tabreea Gandy led the Yellow
23 Jackets with eight rebounds and five assists. More impressive was
24 what Starkville was able to do on defense: They held Murrah to
25 27% shooting (10 of 37) and held the Mustangs' two big scoring
26 threats, Jamaica Almons and Kacey Bradford, to a combined 20
27 points; and

28 WHEREAS, "I'm really proud to be standing here holding this,"
29 Coach Williams said, looking down at the First-Place Golden Ball
30 Trophy. "I'm incredibly proud of our staff"; and

31 WHEREAS, the 2018 Starkville High School Yellow Jackets
32 Championship Team Roster: Donsha Lee, P; Breanna Young, P; Jalisa
33 Outlaw, SG, PG; Tabreea Gandy (C), PG, SG; Alexandria Gray, G;
34 Jariyah Covington (C), PG, SG; Amaya Ford, G; Ayanna Harris, G;
35 Carly Evans, G; Amaria Strong, P, W; Idalis Suell, P; and Kirsten
36 Thompson (C), C; Head Coach Kristie Williams; and Assistant
37 Coaches Anita Johnson and Gwen Johnson; and

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

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
42 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
43 we do hereby commend and congratulate the Starkville High School
44 "Yellow Jackets" Girls Basketball Team and Coach Kristie Williams



45 for winning the 2018 MHSAA Class 6A State Championship and extend
46 to the players, coaches, parents and sponsors our best wishes for
47 continued success.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
49 Coach Kristie Williams and Starkville High School Principal Sean
50 McDonnall for the team, forwarded to the Starkville School Board,
51 and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

