

By: Senator(s) Harkins, Blackwell, Browning, Burton, Carmichael, Caughman, Clarke, Dearing, DeBar, Frazier, Jackson (32nd), Kirby, Massey, Parker, Watson To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 657

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE MISSISSIPPI STATE  
2 UNIVERSITY "LADY BULLDOGS" WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM AND WBCA "COACH  
3 OF THE YEAR" COACH VIC SCHAEFER FOR ADVANCING TO ITS SECOND  
4 CONSECUTIVE NCAA TOURNAMENT "FINAL FOUR" APPEARANCE, AND RECOGNIZE  
5 TEAIRA MCCOWAN, VICTORIA VIVIANS AND MORGAN WILLIAM, AND ALL TEAM  
6 MEMBERS FOR A SPECIAL SEASON.

7 WHEREAS, we join the Mississippi State University "Lady  
8 Bulldogs" Women's Basketball Team and all of Bulldog Nation in  
9 celebrating another special record-breaking season; and

10 WHEREAS, the Mississippi State Women's Basketball Team scored  
11 a dramatic overtime victory over Louisville (73-63) on March 30,  
12 2018, in the Final Four of the Women's NCAA Tournament. With the  
13 victory, the Lady Bulldogs advanced to the National Championship  
14 Game on Sunday, April 1, 2018, for the second straight year to  
15 face Notre Dame's Fighting Irish. However, the final shot stopped  
16 MSU's dream. Mississippi State will eventually win a National  
17 Championship, but it did not happen on Sunday. Notre Dame's Arike  
18 Ogunbowale hit a 3-pointer from the corner with a tenth of a  
19 second on the clock to give Notre Dame a 61-58 win over the  
20 Bulldogs in the NCAA Tournament finale. The Fighting Irish (35-3)



21 overcame a 15-point third-quarter deficit, the largest in the  
22 history of the Championship Game. The Bulldogs (37-2) finished  
23 runner-up for the second year in a row; and

24 WHEREAS, Mississippi State went to another Final Four after a  
25 spectacular 2017-2018 season that continued after defeating UCLA  
26 89-73 on March 25, 2018, at the Sprint Center in Kansas City.  
27 Mississippi State (36-1) built a 42-26 lead by halftime, and  
28 fought through the Bruins' second-half rally thanks to stellar  
29 performances by Victoria Vivians and Teaira McCowan. After the  
30 game, which looked to be on the verge of a rout at halftime only  
31 to get within a couple of possessions in the fourth quarter, the  
32 Mississippi State Women's Basketball Team did allow itself a few  
33 moments of celebration; and

34 WHEREAS, Victoria Vivians and Teaira McCowan shared the  
35 Regional Most Outstanding Player Award, which makes sense because  
36 the two worked hand-in-hand. McCowan shot 100% from the field at  
37 the First Regional and she had a double-double before halftime and  
38 finished with 23 points and 21 rebounds. Vivians had a game-high  
39 24 points on 10-of-17 shooting. Roshunda Johnson and Morgan  
40 William shot UCLA out of a 2-3 zone, while together combining for  
41 29 points; and

42 WHEREAS, Mississippi State Head Coach Vic Schaefer was named  
43 National Coach of the Year by the U.S. Basketball Writers  
44 Association on March 30, 2018. Coaches around the country took  
45 notice of the coaching job Vic Schaefer has done this season at



46 Mississippi State. After guiding the Bulldogs to a historic  
47 2017-2018 season, the Bulldogs' sixth-year Head Coach was named  
48 United States Marine Corps WBCA/Division I National Coach of the  
49 Year. Three of his players, Teaira McCowan, Victoria Vivians and  
50 Morgan William, were named Region Finalists as well. Schaefer and  
51 the three standouts guided this season's Bulldog squad to the  
52 program's first Southeastern Conference Regular Season  
53 Championship, the first for any women's program at MSU.  
54 Mississippi State also advanced to the Sweet 16 for the third  
55 straight year after claiming the school's first No. 1 seed in the  
56 NCAA Tournament; and

57 WHEREAS, a banner senior season has earned Mississippi State  
58 Guard Victoria Vivians First-Team All-America honors from *USA*  
59 *Today*. Vivians was honored for the first time by the 32-member  
60 National Media Panel that votes on the AP Top 25 each week. The  
61 Carthage native became MSU's third First-Team All-American after  
62 scoring a career-best and MSU eight-most 646 points this season, a  
63 19.6 scoring average that ranks third in the SEC. Vivians scored  
64 double figures in 32 of the Bulldogs' 33 games this season,  
65 including tallying 20 points 15 times and 30 points twice. During  
66 the historic campaign, Vivians became the third player in MSU  
67 history to pass 2,000-career points. With 2,400 points to her  
68 time in Starkville, she entered the NCAA Tournament 21 shy of  
69 tying Tan White for second at State. Vivians was one of five  
70 players named to the First Team. Mississippi State teammates



71 Teaira McCowan and Victoria Vivians were both named to the AP  
72 All-SEC Team; McCowan and Vivians were unanimous First Team  
73 selections on the All-SEC Team; and

74 WHEREAS, after notching the first perfect home record in  
75 Humphrey Coliseum history (18-0), the Lady Bulldogs shattered the  
76 program attendance record (133,906). The 32-1 Bulldogs finished  
77 the regular season undefeated, the first SEC team to do so in 20  
78 years. MSU's run of 32-straight wins ranked as the second-longest  
79 winning streak in SEC history. With its second-round win against  
80 Oklahoma State, this year's squad matched last season's National  
81 Finalist team for the most wins in school history with 34; and

82 WHEREAS, the Elite-8 Victory was an inevitable step in a  
83 special season. Look at the big picture, and it remains  
84 remarkable what this program once was and what it has become. The  
85 elite group in women's college basketball is hard to break  
86 through, but Mississippi State is on the verge of finding a way to  
87 do so; and

88 WHEREAS, the Mississippi State University 2017-2018 "Lady  
89 Bulldogs" Basketball NCAA Tournament Team Roster is: Blair  
90 Schaefer, G; Morgan William, G; Myah Taylor, G; Jazzmun Holmes, G;  
91 Roshunda Johnson, G; Jacaira Allen, G; Teaira McCowan, C; Nyah  
92 Tate, G; Jonika Garvin, G; Bre'Amber Scott, G; Jordan Danberry, G;  
93 Zion Campbell, C; Victoria Vivians, G; and Chloe Bibby, F; and  
94 Head Coach Vic Schaefer; and



95           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the special  
96 accomplishments by these dedicated university athletes who have  
97 brought honor to their university, their community and to the  
98 State of Mississippi:

99           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
100 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
101 we do hereby congratulate the Mississippi State University "Lady  
102 Bulldogs" Women's Basketball Team and Head Coach Vic Schaefer for  
103 advancing to its second consecutive NCAA Tournament "Final Four"  
104 appearance, and recognize Teaira McCowan, Victoria Vivians and  
105 Morgan William, and all team members for a special season.

106           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
107 Coach Vic Schaefer, forwarded to Mississippi State University  
108 President Mark E. Keenum and the Board of Trustees of State  
109 Institutions of Higher Learning, and made available to the Capitol  
110 Press Corps.

