

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Michel, Parker,
Watson

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING OLE MISS GOLF TEAM
2 STANDOUT BRADEN THORNBERRY FOR WINNING THE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST-EVER
3 2017 MEN'S NCAA INDIVIDUAL GOLF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AND FOR
4 REPRESENTING THE UNITED STATES LEADING THE USA TO VICTORY IN THE
5 2017 WALKER CUP MATCHES.

6 WHEREAS, Braden Thornberry, a 20-year-old Ole Miss Rebel
7 golfer from Olive Branch, was chosen to represent the United
8 States in the Walker Cup Matches, which was played at the Los
9 Angeles Country Club on September 9-10, 2017. The biennial
10 competition featured the best amateur golfers in the United States
11 against a team from Britain and Ireland. Braden dominated at the
12 Walker Cup, helping Team USA to a 19-7 win over Team Great Britain
13 and Ireland, winning both his single matches; and

14 WHEREAS, Braden beat Harry Ellis, the 2017 British Amateur
15 Champion, despite trailing by two strokes with five holes to play.
16 Thornberry won four out of five and halved the other to win 2-up.
17 Thornberry made quick work of Paul McBride of Ireland the next
18 day, beating him 6-5 in 13 holes. "It was awesome," he said. "I
19 think it was a great venue for something like the Walker Cup. The



20 course had a good mixture of long and short holes that made it a
21 great design"; and

22 WHEREAS, this is yet another achievement for Thornberry in
23 what is surely the most remarkable year of amateur golf ever
24 produced by a Mississippian. Thornberry won five collegiate
25 tournaments, including the NCAA Championship. He won the Haskins
26 Trophy, golf's equivalent to the Heisman Trophy, as just a
27 sophomore. He won the prestigious Sunnehanna Amateur Tournament
28 of Champions in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, against an international
29 field; and

30 WHEREAS, Thornberry is ranked No. 3 in Men's World Amateur
31 Golf rankings and defeated the No. 1 ranked player Joaquin
32 Niemann of Chile in the United States Amateur. Perhaps most
33 famously, Thornberry finished tied for fourth, two shots out of
34 the lead, in the PGA Tour's FedEx St. Jude Classic, and turned
35 down more than \$240,000.00 to retain his amateur status; and

36 WHEREAS, obviously, Thornberry could turn pro and make a
37 fortune playing golf at the level he has played over the past 12
38 months. Instead, he will remain and play his junior year at Ole
39 Miss where he still believes he can better prepare himself for the
40 rigors of the PGA Tour; and

41 WHEREAS, on May 29, 2017, Ole Miss Sophomore Standout Braden
42 Thornberry shot 71 (1-under) in the final round to erase a
43 two-stroke deficit and win the 2017 Men's NCAA Individual Golf



44 National Championship at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove,
45 Illinois; and

46 WHEREAS, it is the first-ever Individual or Team Golf
47 National Championship for the Rebels. Thornberry shot 277
48 (66-71-69-71), which was 11-under and four strokes ahead; and

49 WHEREAS, "His life will change after this. To win a National
50 Title as an individual is huge," said Golf Channel's Billy Ray
51 Brown, who won the 1982 Individual Championship while at Houston.
52 "He will be on stage each and every week as he continues on in his
53 amateur career"; and

54 WHEREAS, Thornberry had won four tournaments prior to his
55 National Title win. He entered the day two strokes behind. Ole
56 Miss, coached by Chris Malloy, finished tied for 22nd in a 30-team
57 field and missed the cut by 17 strokes; and

58 WHEREAS, "It means a lot to be the Champion," Thornberry
59 said. "As far as the team, we knew we were going to have a
60 special year when we started off and we weren't surprised at all."
61 Thornberry played spectacular golf headed into the 2017 college
62 season; and

63 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
64 special achievement by a university athlete who has brought honor
65 to his university, his community and to the State of Mississippi:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
67 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Ole Miss
68 Sophomore Standout Braden Thornberry for winning the University's



69 first-ever 2017 Men's NCAA Individual Golf National Championship
70 and for representing the United States leading the USA to victory
71 in the 2017 Walker Cup Matches, and extend to Braden and his
72 family our best wishes for future success at this level and in his
73 professional career.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
75 Braden Thornberry and Coach Chris Malloy, forwarded to Chancellor
76 Jeffrey S. Vitter and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions
77 of Higher Learning, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

