

By: Representatives Bain, Hughes, Baria,
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To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI REBELS BASEBALL TEAM AND COACH MIKE
3 BIANCO FOR WINNING THE 2018 SEC TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP AND FOR
4 ONE OF THE BEST SEASONS IN PROGRAM HISTORY.

5 WHEREAS, on May 27, 2018, in front of the second-largest
6 crowd in the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Tournament Championship
7 Game history, the No. 4 Ole Miss Baseball Team left no doubt about
8 their ability, crushing Louisiana State University 9-1 to secure
9 its third tournament title in program history, and the Rebel
10 offense exploded for nine runs on 15 hits, including a decisive
11 four-run seventh inning, while a combination of Houston Roth, Will
12 Stokes, Ryan Rolison and Greer Holston held LSU to just one run on
13 four hits in a dominant victory; and

14 WHEREAS, highlights of the 2018 Ole Miss baseball season, one
15 of the best seasons in program history:

- 16 • Ole Miss won the SEC Tournament for the third time in
17 program history and the first time since 2006;



18 • A crowd of 14,126 were on hand for the Rebel triumph, the
19 second-largest SEC Championship Game crowd in history and the
20 first over 14,000 in 15 years;

21 • Ole Miss recorded its 20th come-from-behind win for the
22 2018 season;

23 • Rebel hitters leading off an inning went 26-for-48 (.542)
24 in the SEC Tournament, including 6-for-9 in the championship game;

25 • Nick Fortes was the third player in SEC Tournament
26 Championship Game history to record four or more hits;

27 • Nick Fortes became the second Rebel to earn SEC Tournament
28 Most Valuable Player, joining Mark Wright from the 2006
29 Championship Team;

30 • Nick Fortes, Will Golsan and Thomas Dillard were named to
31 the SEC All-Tournament Team;

32 • Ole Miss starting pitching accumulated a 1.28 earned run
33 average (ERA) over 28.2 innings of work in the SEC Tournament;

34 • Ole Miss ended its season tied for the most wins in
35 program history with 48;

36 • The Rebels also tied a school record with 21 saves as a
37 team, matching the mark set in 1993;

38 • The Ole Miss pitching staff came up just three strikeouts
39 shy of tying a program record with 621 on the season, with the
40 record of 624 from the 2008 season standing as the most by a Rebel
41 staff;



42 • Ole Miss finished the season with the best fielding
43 percentage in program history at .978, breaking the previous mark
44 of .976 set in 2012;

45 • Ole Miss finished with an even .300 batting average, the
46 first Rebel team to reach a .300 mark since 2009;

47 • Ryan Rolison was selected No. 22 overall in the first
48 round by the Colorado Rockies in the 2018 Major League Baseball
49 Draft, making the sophomore lefty the first Rebel taken in the
50 first round since Drew Pomeranz went fifth overall to the
51 Cleveland Indians in 2010, and he is the fifth first-rounder in
52 Rebel history, joining Pomeranz, Michael Rosamond (1999), Chris
53 Coghlan (2005) and Lance Lynn (2008);

54 • Jordan Fowler was named a Freshman All-American by
55 Collegiate Baseball, and the freshman left-hander wrapped up an
56 outstanding rookie campaign, in which he went 7-0 with a 3.20 ERA,
57 the best percentage record and lowest ERA among all Rebel
58 starters; and

59 WHEREAS, Ole Miss baseball put together one of the best
60 seasons in program history, but the Rebels did not get the finish
61 they hoped for, falling 3-2 in the NCAA Oxford Regional finale to
62 No. 2 seed Tennessee Tech (52-10) to end their season at 48-17;
63 and

64 WHEREAS, the 2018 Ole Miss Rebel Baseball Team roster was:
65 Jacob Adams, IF; Ryan Olenek, IF/OF; Anthony Servideo, IF; Emanuel
66 Fernandez, LHP; Thomas Dillard, C/OF; Nick Fortes, C; Will Golsan,



67 IF/OF; Michael Spears, OF; Tyler Keenan, IF; Chase Cockrell, IF;
68 Greer Holston, RHP; Cooper Johnson, C; Cole Zabowski, IF; Grae
69 Kessinger, IF; Will Stokes, RHP; Connor Green, RHP; Will Ethridge,
70 RHP; Jordan Fowler, LHP; Ryan Rolison, LHP; Tim Elko, IF; James
71 McArthur, RHP; Bryan Seamster, OF; Austin Miller, RHP; Max Cioffi,
72 RHP; Colin Coates, RHP; Michael Fitzsimmons, IF; Golston
73 Gillespie, UT; Brady Feigl, RHP; Houston Roth, RHP; Pierce Smith,
74 LHP; Tim Rowe, OF; Carl Gindl, OF; Matt Myers, RHP; and Parker
75 Caracci, RHP; Head Coach, Mike Bianco; Assistant Coaches, Mike
76 Clement and Carl Lafferty; Volunteer Assistant Coach, Marc
77 MacMillan; Coordinator of Operations External Affairs, Alex
78 Swenson; Coordinator of Operations Internal Affairs, Chris
79 Goudoras; Senior Athletic Trainer, Josh Porter; Strength and
80 Conditioning Coach, Zach Boone; Assistant Director of Academic
81 Support, Sheila Padgett; Sports Performance Consultant, Brian
82 Cain; and Student Mangers: Collin Brinkley, Hunter Doucet, Ethan
83 Moore, Eric Menefee, Jacob Smith, Ryan Smith and Nathan Bledsoe;
84 and

85 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we join the University
86 of Mississippi students and alumni in recognizing these
87 outstanding athletes who have brought honor to their university,
88 their community and to the State of Mississippi:

89 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
90 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
91 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the University



92 of Mississippi Rebels Baseball Team and Head Coach Mike Bianco for
93 winning the 2018 SEC Tournament Championship and for one of the
94 best seasons in program history, and extend to the players,
95 coaches, parents and sponsors best wishes for success in the 2019
96 season.

97 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
98 furnished to Head Coach Mike Bianco, Chancellor Larry Sparks, the
99 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and to
100 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

