

By: Representatives Snowden, Young,
Blackmon, Bomgar, Gunn, Wilson

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 37

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING RAY GILDEA ON
2 BEING SELECTED AS THE 2018 STATE GAMES OF MISSISSIPPI AT&T OVERALL
3 MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR.

4 WHEREAS, Ray Gildea is the 2018 "Athlete of the Year" for the
5 State Games of Mississippi; and

6 WHEREAS, this award was created to celebrate and recognize
7 Mississippi's amateur athletes by nominations from coaches,
8 officials, athletes, volunteers, and spectators who choose one
9 male, one female and one youth athlete who personifies the ideals
10 of participation, sportsmanship, special attributes, achievements,
11 efforts and positive attitudes of the State Games movement; and

12 WHEREAS, this year, the State Games are honoring athletes
13 from 37 sports, and from these 37 athletes, only three were chosen
14 to receive the honor of "Athlete of the Year"; and

15 WHEREAS, the chosen "Athletes of the Year" are honored with a
16 visit to the Mississippi State Capitol, where the Governor bestows
17 grand recognition upon them for their achievements and where they



18 will have the honor and fame of lighting the torch during the 2019
19 Opening Ceremonies of the State Games; and

20 WHEREAS, sixty-five-year-old Ray Gildea of Madison has been
21 competing in track and field, road racing and marathon running for
22 more than 27 years, has won more than 118 medals in the State
23 Games of Mississippi, and run 161 marathons in the Senior Olympics
24 for the past 15 years; and

25 WHEREAS, this dedicated athlete has stated that "The
26 challenge of sustaining a track season every year while in
27 perpetual marathon training is hard, because of minor injuries,"
28 but in spite of injuries last year, Ray journeyed on to win two
29 gold medals, one silver medal and one bronze medal in the USA
30 Track and Field Southeast Region Masters Championships; and

31 WHEREAS, the State Games keeps its entry fees low primarily
32 through the generous donations of sponsors, including Founding
33 Gold Sponsor: Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Company and Rush
34 Hospital; and Gold Sponsors: AT&T, BlueCross BlueShield of
35 Mississippi, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians/Pearl River
36 Resort, Meridian-Lauderdale County Tourism Bureau/Lauderdale
37 County Board of Supervisors, Structural Steel, WTOK-TV, *The*
38 *Meridian Star* and WMDN/WGBC-TV; and

39 WHEREAS, Ray Gildea is an excellent role model for a balanced
40 and healthy lifestyle, and is the perfect example of fitness and
41 dedication that the State Games of Mississippi promotes; and



42 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
43 recognize fine Mississippi athletes such as Ray Gildea as its
44 "Male Athlete of the Year," who has brought honor to his community
45 and to the State of Mississippi:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
47 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
48 commend and congratulate Ray Gildea on being selected as the 2018
49 State Games of Mississippi AT&T Overall Male Athlete of the Year,
50 and express best wishes for continued success in all of his future
51 endeavors.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
53 furnished to Ray Gildea and to the members of the Capitol Press
54 Corps.

