

By: Representatives Walker, Miles

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 40

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING VICTORIA VIVIAN'S FOR HER NUMEROUS
2 ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AND FOR BEING
3 CHOSEN BY THE INDIANA FEVER IN THE 2018 WNBA DRAFT.

4 WHEREAS, Victoria Vivians, perhaps one of the greatest
5 basketball players in Mississippi's history, has been honored with
6 numerous athletic accomplishments throughout her basketball career
7 and was chosen by the Indiana Fever in the 2018 Women's National
8 Basketball Association (WNBA) Draft, an outstanding achievement
9 for Victoria and an honor for the State of Mississippi; and

10 WHEREAS, born on November 17, 1994, as the daughter of John
11 and Angela Vivians and Deborah Peatry, Victoria moved from
12 Carthage, Mississippi, to Forest, Mississippi, and transferred to
13 Scott Central High School where she began her indomitable rise to
14 become one of the most elite basketball athletes in the nation,
15 scoring 30 points during a game against the local rival school
16 when she was just in the eighth grade, which placed her on the
17 basketball map and successfully garnered the attention of many
18 college scouts in attendance; and



19 WHEREAS, averaging almost 40 points and 15 rebounds a game
20 during her junior year, Victoria received numerous letters from
21 colleges, each pleading with her to play on their court, but as
22 she narrowed her choices to Florida, Mississippi State, Louisville
23 and Kentucky, she ultimately decided to attend Mississippi State,
24 with the deciding factor being her unwavering dedication to her
25 family, since the other three out-of-state colleges were each at
26 least an eight-hour drive from her family; and

27 WHEREAS, during Victoria's illustrious high school basketball
28 career, she accomplished many exceptional achievements: she
29 scored 5,745 career points, a national record; she was the
30 two-time first team All-American; she led the nation with a 46.2
31 scoring average as a senior, bettering her own state record and
32 ranking fifth in national high school records; she was
33 Mississippi's Miss Basketball her final two seasons; she was the
34 four-time all-state selection; her high school jersey hangs in the
35 Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Ring of Honor; and she has a
36 permanent tribute in the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame; and

37 WHEREAS, in addition to her many high school honors and
38 awards, Victoria's athletic prowess and basketball accomplishments
39 landed her a scholarship to Mississippi State University in
40 Starkville, Mississippi, where she majored in human sciences while
41 representing the Bulldogs as a guard on the court, and she helped
42 lead the team to four appearances in the NCAA Tournament,



43 including three Sweet Sixteens and appearances in the championship
44 game in 2017 and 2018; and

45 WHEREAS, during her legendary tenure at Mississippi State,
46 Victoria received numerous honors and awards including the CSpire
47 Gillom Trophy in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018; the Associated Press
48 First Team All-American for 2017-2018; the NCAA Kansas City
49 Co-Most Outstanding Player for 2017-2018; the NCAA All-Final Four
50 Team for 2017-2018 and 2016-2017; the First Team All-SEC (AP and
51 Coaches) for 2017-2018, 2015-2016 and 2014-2015; the SEC
52 All-Tournament Team for 2017-2018 and 2015-2016; the SEC
53 All-Freshman Team for 2014-2015, and being dedicated to academic
54 excellence, she was honored with the SEC Academic Honor Roll for
55 2015-2016 and 2016-2017; and

56 WHEREAS, Victoria was also honored with being the 2nd at
57 Mississippi State University and the 9th in the SEC in career
58 scoring with 2,527 points, and she was named the Women's
59 Basketball Coaches Association All-American and was the 1st 4-time
60 Gillom Trophy winner (Mississippi's top women's college basketball
61 player); and

62 WHEREAS, a stellar senior season, her last in the Bulldog
63 maroon and white, earned Victoria First-Team All-American honors
64 from USA Today, and she was honored for the first time by the
65 32-member National Media Panel that votes on the AP Top 25 each
66 week; and



67 WHEREAS, during her historic campaign, she became the third
68 player in Mississippi State's history to pass 2,000-career points,
69 scoring 2,400 points during her time in Starkville and entering
70 the NCAA Tournament 21 points shy of tying Tan White for second at
71 Mississippi State; and

72 WHEREAS, striving for excellence, Victoria boosted her
73 field-goal percentage from 42.5 percent in her junior season to
74 48.6 percent as a senior, and the two-time All-American averaged
75 19.8 points a game in her final season, leading the Bulldogs to a
76 37-2 record, the best record in school history; and

77 WHEREAS, while her basketball awards abound, Victoria is not
78 just a phenomenon on the basketball court, but also on the
79 homecoming court, as she reigned supreme as the 2017 Homecoming
80 Queen at Mississippi State, being dubbed "Queen Victoria" by
81 students and faculty across campus; and

82 WHEREAS, Victoria has been tremendously blessed with a
83 supportive family, especially her father who made it a priority to
84 attend each of her basketball games, but because he drives an
85 18-wheeler, he often had to juggle his trucking routes with her
86 schedule but he would change his routes or do whatever it took to
87 make sure he arrived in time to see his baby girl play; and

88 WHEREAS, the 6-foot-1 senior forward who came to Mississippi
89 State as the best player in Mississippi high school basketball
90 history transformed herself into a go-to player for the Bulldogs,



91 capping her career with a second straight trip to the NCAA
92 Championship game; and

93 WHEREAS, Victoria's outstanding talent on the basketball
94 court at Mississippi State garnered the attention of Indiana Fever
95 Head Coach Pokey Chatman, and she was chosen eighth overall by the
96 Indiana Fever in the 2018 WNBA Draft on April 12, 2018, a truly
97 exceptional and life-changing achievement; and

98 WHEREAS, a small-town girl making big-time moves, Victoria
99 will take her Mississippi roots with her as she moves to Indiana,
100 along with her steadfast dedication to her family and immense
101 appreciation to all those who helped her succeed along the way;
102 and

103 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
104 recognize and commend great Mississippi athletes, especially those
105 such as Victoria Vivians, whose unwavering dedication and
106 astounding triumph have inspired all Mississippians to strive for
107 excellence in all facets of their lives, bringing honor to Scott
108 Central High School, Mississippi State University, the communities
109 of Carthage and Forest and to this great Magnolia State:

110 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
111 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
112 commend and congratulate Victoria Vivians upon her numerous
113 basketball accomplishments, and especially for being chosen by the
114 Indiana Fever in the 2018 Women's National Basketball Association



115 Draft, and express our deepest wishes for continued success in all
116 of her future endeavors.

117 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
118 furnished to Victoria Vivians and to the members of the Capitol
119 Press Corps.

