

By: Senator(s) Blackmon

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 640

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
 2 VELMA JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL "FALCONS" BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM AND HEAD
 3 COACH CHRIS LOVE UPON WINNING ITS FIFTH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE
 4 AS THE 2019 MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATIONS CLASS
 5 3A STATE CHAMPIONS.

6 WHEREAS, the Velma Jackson High School "Falcons" Boys
 7 Basketball Team reigned supreme after finishing the 2018-2019
 8 season with an impressive record of 25 wins and 6 losses, and
 9 capturing the 2019 Mississippi High School Activities Association
 10 Class 3A State Basketball Championship on March 9, 2019, at the
 11 Mississippi Coliseum, to claim its fifth coveted Golden Ball in
 12 seven years; and

13 WHEREAS, this was truly a dream season, as the unparalleled
 14 determination and year-round hard work helped catapult the Falcons
 15 to the number-one spot in Class 3A. Throughout the State District
 16 and Championship Tournament with a 9-1 record, the Falcons played
 17 with clear eyes, full hearts and unimaginable amounts of strength.
 18 In each game, their mental stamina and athletic prowess never
 19 wavered from the moment they hustled onto the court for the first



20 tip off until the final buzzer sounded, as they outlasted,
21 outplayed and ultimately overpowered the Holly Springs "Hawks"
22 59-44 in the fast-paced, full-court pressed, exhilarating
23 Championship Game; and

24 WHEREAS, to claim this illustrious victory, the Falcons, who
25 are accustomed to playing much larger teams, relied on their swift
26 feet, accurate shooting, boxing out executions and strategic
27 defensive moves to stop the Hawks' offense and outmaneuver their
28 defense, which ultimately allowed them to bring the coveted "Gold
29 Ball" Trophy back to Velma Jackson after winning its last
30 Championship in 2017; and

31 WHEREAS, the Falcons kept their focus and played one of their
32 best games of the season during the Championship matchup, and the
33 2018-2019 MHSAA Class 3A Boys Basketball State Championship Team
34 is comprised of the following talented athletes: Mason Riley,
35 Jordan Harvey, Leaveon Griffin, RD Wilson, Jarius Young, Charles
36 Smith, Joshua Lee, Charlie Jones, Carlton Beamon and Cortez
37 Simpson; and

38 WHEREAS, with "finishing the job" as the team's adopted
39 motto, the Falcons soared to exponential heights on the wings of
40 four standout players, several of whom are cousins to the
41 Powerhouse Triple Threat Weatherspoon brothers, Quinndary, Nik and
42 Brandon, who were the driving forces behind Velma Jackson's first
43 string of championships, including: Josh Lee, who contributed a
44 game-high 15 points; Jordan Harvey, who netted 12 points and 18



45 rebounds to catapult him to be recognized as the game's Most
46 Valuable Player; Leaveon Griffin, who also added 12 points; and
47 Charlie Jones, who chipped in 11 of the Falcon's points; and

48 WHEREAS, the Velma Jackson High School "Falcons" Boys
49 Basketball Team has been exceptionally coached and tremendously
50 inspired by Head Coach Chris Love, who has broadened the team's
51 knowledge of the game and refined their skills in execution, and
52 he continues to build upon the legacy of superior play and true
53 sportsmanship forged by the tenacious and undaunted spirit of each
54 team member, as evidenced in his ability to produce high-caliber
55 players and plays, and by the team's successful season; and

56 WHEREAS, Coach Love, in his second year at the helm of the
57 winning Falcon dynasty, is also a second-generation basketball
58 coach; he is the son of Lewis Love, Jr., who coached the 1997
59 Canton High School "Tigers" Boys Basketball Team to a Class 4A
60 State Championship and served as Assistant Coach to the 1999
61 Mississippi All-Star Boys Basketball Team, and now with whom
62 shared conversations as State Title holders will be sure to
63 permeate the atmosphere of any family gathering; and

64 WHEREAS, the members of this team will carry the
65 unforgettable memories they made along their way to Championship
66 status, whether it be the long hours in the weight room or the
67 grueling practices on the hardwood, as well as the lessons of hard
68 work, dedication and perseverance learned during this amazing



69 season, throughout their lives as they are constantly flooded with
70 the feeling of greatness that accompanies being a champion; and

71 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
72 and commend excellence, especially that displayed by the Velma
73 Jackson High School "Falcons" Boys Basketball Team, and it is with
74 great pride that we congratulate this elite group of student
75 athletes and Head Coach Chris Love, who have brought honor to
76 their school, their community and to their state:

77 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
78 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
79 we do hereby commend and congratulate the 2018-2019 Velma Jackson
80 High School "Falcons" Boys Basketball Team and Head Coach Chris
81 Love upon winning the 2019 Mississippi High School Activities
82 Association's Class 3A State Basketball Championship, and extend
83 best wishes to the team and coach for continued success in all of
84 their future athletic and academic endeavors.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
86 Head Coach Chris Love for the team, Principal Carey Kirkland of
87 Velma Jackson High School, and made available to the Capitol Press
88 Corps.

