

By: Representative Bennett

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 78

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE 2020-2021 LONG
2 BEACH HIGH SCHOOL BEARCATS BOYS SOCCER TEAM AND HEAD COACH ANDEE
3 WILBURN UPON WINNING THEIR FIRST MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL
4 ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION CLASS 5A BOYS SOCCER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, the Long Beach High School Bearcats Boys Soccer Team
6 finished the 2020-2021 season with its first state title in the
7 school's history when they reigned victorious at the Mississippi
8 High School Activities Association (MHSAA) Class 5A Boys Soccer
9 State Championship, after trumping the Center Hill High School
10 Mustangs in a 3-1 score; and

11 WHEREAS, after making three consecutive runners-up finishes,
12 the Bearcats' fourth straight state championship tournament
13 appearance proved to be the charm, as the team wielded its
14 exceptionally powerful strike to pierce through the state
15 championship dreams of each of their opponents in the state
16 playoffs; and

17 WHEREAS, playing with clear eyes, full hearts and
18 unimaginable amounts of strength, on February 6, 2021, at Madison
19 Central High School, the Bearcats Soccer Team outlasted, outplayed



20 and ultimately overpowered the Mustangs after jumping to an early
21 lead after senior forward Carlos Torres scored the first goal in
22 the 37th minute, followed by Ethan Myers' knock through in the
23 29th minute, and the firm defense of goalkeeper Justin Rolison,
24 which cemented the team's 2-0 halftime lead; and

25 WHEREAS, not wanting to allow their opponents any leeway in a
26 direct path to the soccer box, the Bearcats' focus forged a
27 stacking defense as its primary purpose during the second half,
28 before Torres, in a breakout play, tore through the Mustangs'
29 defense with 9 minutes remaining to score the Bearcats' final goal
30 and seal its claim as victors and the rightful inheritors of the
31 school's first golden soccer trophy; and

32 WHEREAS, as many veterans of the game have said, "Defense
33 wins championships," this age-old saying defined the immaculate
34 strategy and skill of the Bearcats defense, whose grit, fortitude
35 and determination erected a stone wall that helped secure the
36 championship victory, and the dedication and athletic prowess of
37 the offensive players helped them become game changers during the
38 championship match, ensuring the revered title crown would find a
39 new home on the mantle of the Long Beach Bearcats trophy case; and

40 WHEREAS, throughout their season of play, the Long Beach High
41 School Boys Soccer Team, who are bursting with grit and
42 athleticism, faced off with some of the state's best contenders on
43 the pitch, but persevered, despite obstacles due to COVID-19, to
44 finish their season with an 11-2-1 record, making their presence



45 and talent known as the gladiators and invincible champions of
46 MHSAA boys' soccer; and

47 WHEREAS, the 2020-2021 Bearcats Soccer Team statistics were
48 impressive, and there were outstanding headers, strikes, penalty
49 kicks and goals by individual players, but the key to this team's
50 consistent success has been the constant team atmosphere and
51 year-round hard work; and

52 WHEREAS, the Long Beach High School Boys Soccer Team is
53 comprised of very talented and distinguished young gentlemen,
54 including: seniors, Joshua Bonds, Simon Nguyen, Noah Shockley,
55 Dylan Stephens, Kevin Tremino and Stanley Trzaska; juniors, Aiden
56 Hines, Leo Maldonado, Caleb McKnab, Nathaniel Mink, Johnny Pham,
57 Justin Rolison and Carlos Torres; sophomores, Gregory Desir,
58 Brandon Griffith and Will Long; and freshmen, Blake Anderson,
59 Joseph Chappel, Corbin Dixson, Alexander Eleuterius, Victor
60 Hilensky, Dylan Kippes, Ethan LaBorde, Sawyer Levenson, Conner
61 McNab, Liam Sartin, Max Torres and Mason Willis; and

62 WHEREAS, the Bearcats have been superbly coached and inspired
63 by Head Coach Andee Wilburn, who has broadened the Bearcats'
64 knowledge of the game and refined their skills in execution; and

65 WHEREAS, Coach Wilburn continues to build upon the legacy of
66 superior play and true sportsmanship forged by the tenacious and
67 undaunted spirit of each team member, as evidenced in their
68 ability to produce high caliber players and plays and the team's
69 successful season; and



70 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
71 recognize and commend the superb accomplishments of Mississippi
72 student-athletes, especially those such as the Long Beach High
73 School Bearcats Boys Soccer Team, whose excellence on the field
74 and in the classroom brings honor to their school, their community
75 and the State of Mississippi:

76 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
77 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
78 commend and congratulate the 2020-2021 Long Beach High School
79 Bearcats Boys Soccer Team and Head Coach Andee Wilburn upon
80 winning their first Mississippi High School Activities Association
81 Class 5A Boys Soccer State Championship and extend best wishes to
82 the team and coach for continued success in all of their future
83 athletic and academic endeavors.

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
85 furnished to Head Coach Andee Wilburn, Long Beach High School and
86 to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

