

By: Senator(s) Polk, Blackwell, Fillingane, To: Rules
Witherspoon, Jackson (32nd)

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NOAH HARRIS OF HATTIESBURG,
2 MISSISSIPPI, AND NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI, AS HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S
3 FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND COMMENDING
4 HIM FOR REPRESENTING MISSISSIPPI IN THIS PRESTIGIOUS ROLE.

5 WHEREAS, we join the friends and family of Noah Harris of
6 Natchez, Mississippi, in honoring him as he prepares for an
7 historic position at Harvard University in Cambridge,
8 Massachusetts; and

9 WHEREAS, Noah Harris was elected Harvard University's first
10 African American male Student Body President in November 2020, by
11 the student body. While Harris' hometown is Hattiesburg,
12 Mississippi, he has close family ties to Natchez, Mississippi.
13 The prestigious Harvard University will kick off the spring
14 semester with the first African American man to be elected Student
15 Body President in its history; and

16 WHEREAS, Harris is a Junior at Harvard, majoring in political
17 science. He hopes to use his platform and historic win to effect
18 change. "Harvard communities can be pretty separate at times
19 because there are so many great cultural organizations, but that



20 can create separate communities. So, we are trying to use our
21 cross-cultural collaboration to bring communities together. Also,
22 what I really want to do is to pave the way, so I'm not the last
23 black man to be elected Student Body President. I want to use my
24 time in this role to make a change and make students' lives better
25 and I think we're well on the track," said Harris; and

26 WHEREAS, Noah's parents, Anthony and Frankie Harris, won Mr.
27 and Mrs. Natchez High School in 1986. Noah's grandparents are Don
28 Gordon, Sr., Myrtis Gordon and Juanita Byrd Harris, all of
29 Natchez. Noah said Natchez is the community that raised him,
30 explaining he has felt like he was a part of Natchez. History,
31 food and the people of Natchez are what Noah enjoys most about the
32 city and Mississippi in general, he said. Noah's grandfather,
33 Don, owns Don's Barber Style Shop, 6 St. Catherine Street in
34 Natchez where Noah has his hair cut when he visits. Noah is an
35 Eagle Scout and played baseball and basketball at Oak Grove High
36 School in Hattiesburg. He had the opportunity to play sports in
37 college, but he said he wanted to go to a school known for its
38 academics. Noah's mother suggested he look at Ivy League schools.
39 He toured Princeton, Yale and Harvard. He said he fell in love
40 with the small town feel of Harvard and chose to go there; and

41 WHEREAS, as he gets ready to head to Cambridge,
42 Massachusetts, for the new semester, he admits being Student Body
43 President over more than 6,000 students during a pandemic will be
44 a challenge. "Our student government meetings are on Zoom. Our



45 classes are on Zoom, too, so we are doing our best on social
46 media, sending emails and doing whatever we can to keep people
47 engaged. Also, there are the projects that we do that we are
48 trying to implement, and people will be able to see those, and so
49 the work continues regardless if it is a pandemic or not. The
50 work arguable becomes more important because of the time that we
51 are in"; and

52 WHEREAS, Noah Harris is also an author. He recently wrote a
53 book called "*Successville*" that encourages children to dream big
54 and reach for their goals in life by valuing their education.
55 While a ninth-grader at Oak Grove High School, Noah worked with
56 fellow boy scouts to nail house numbers to homes on Mobile Street
57 in Hattiesburg, as part of his Eagle Scout project; and

58 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute to the
59 special accomplishments of a young Mississippi citizen who has
60 brought honor to his family, his community and to the State of
61 Mississippi:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
63 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize Noah Harris of
64 Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and Natchez, Mississippi, as Harvard
65 University's first African American male Student Body President
66 and commending him for representing Mississippi in this
67 prestigious role, and extending our best wishes for future
68 academic, business and civic success.



69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
70 Noah Harris and his family, forwarded to Helen Price, Principal of
71 Oak Grove High School, and Lawrence S. Bacow, President of Harvard
72 University, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

