

By: Senator(s) Michel, Caughman

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 31

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE JACKSON  
2 ACADEMY "LADY RAIDERS" GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM AND AWARD-WINNING  
3 COACH JAN SOJOURNER FOR WINNING THE MAIS CLASS 5A STATE  
4 CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, the Jackson Academy Girls Basketball Team held  
6 defending Class 5A State Champion Jackson Prep scoreless for the  
7 last 7 minutes, 27 seconds and scored the last nine points for a  
8 come-from-behind, thrilling 35-34 victory on February 27, 2021,  
9 for the MAIS Class 5A State Championship at Jackson Prep; and

10 WHEREAS, Prep led 34-26 after Olivia Smith made a 3-pointer  
11 with 7:27 to play, but JA forced Prep into six turnovers and Prep  
12 missed its last five shots from the field, including the  
13 game-winner, which bounced off the rim at the buzzer. Senior  
14 Natalie Thompson and senior and Northwest Mississippi Community  
15 College signee McKinna Smith led JA with nine points each. Senior  
16 Emily Thompson had a game-high 10 rebounds; and

17 WHEREAS, the JA/Jackson Prep rivalry has been heated in 2021.  
18 JA improved to 29-2 and won its eighth straight game. Prep  
19 dropped to 23-4 and lost to JA for the second time in three



20 meetings. Prep won 50-47 in overtime on January 22 at JA and it  
21 broke a 10-game winning streak for JA. It was only the second  
22 conference loss at home in the past five seasons. JA won 33-29  
23 February 9 at Prep to end Prep's 17-game winning streak. Both  
24 teams advanced to the Overall Tournament; and

25 WHEREAS, JA Coach Jan Sojourner, the second winningest active  
26 and third winningest overall girls basketball coach in Mississippi  
27 history, won her 987th career game at the Championship Game in her  
28 41st season. She has 885 wins in 36 seasons at JA with an MAIS  
29 record six Overall titles; and

30 WHEREAS, the Jackson Academy "Lady Raiders" Basketball Team  
31 Roster is: NaeNae Ellis, Demi Williamson, Natalie Thompson, Lila  
32 Eubank, McKinna Smith, Avery Brooks, Ava Couey, Emily Thompson,  
33 Elena Roberts, Anna Lauren Parker, Addi Roberts, Mary Peyton  
34 Barnette, Emma Roberts, Jordan Bertschler, Lani Roberts, Emily  
35 Buchanan and Gracie Coe; Head Coach Jan Sojourner and Assistant  
36 Coach Ronnie Rogers; and

37 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize a group of  
38 student athletes who have brought honor to their school, their  
39 community and to the State of Mississippi:

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
41 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the  
42 Jackson Academy "Lady Raiders" Girls Basketball Team and  
43 Award-winning Coach Jan Sojourner for winning the MAIS Class 5A



44 State Championship, and extend to the team, coaches, parents and  
45 sponsors our best wishes for continued success.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
47 Coach Jan Sojourner for the team, Jackson Academy Headmaster Jack  
48 Milne, forwarded to the Jackson Academy Board of Trustees and made  
49 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

