

By: Senator(s) Frazier, Horhn, Norwood,
Blount, Caughman

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 53

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE CLINTON
2 CHRISTIAN ACADEMY "WARRIORS" AND "LADY WARRIORS" BASKETBALL TEAMS
3 AND HEAD COACHES JOSH ZEITZ AND ERICA McCASKILL FOR MAKING HISTORY
4 WITH THE BOYS AND GIRLS MIDSOUTH ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT
5 SCHOOLS CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

6 WHEREAS, winning a championship is impressive. Sweeping the
7 Girls and Boys State Championships is even more spectacular.
8 However, winning both championships without a gym is monumental.
9 Clinton Christian Academy (CCA), this year's MAIS Class 3A State
10 Champions, has done just that; and

11 WHEREAS, this year, both teams made history by bringing home
12 the school's first State Basketball Championships. It was
13 particularly special because of the bond that has formed between
14 them. Clinton Christian Academy has broken ground to build a new
15 state-of-the-art athletic and performing arts center this year;
16 but, during basketball season, the gym was not completed. That
17 meant that CCA had no court to call home. Although it is not the
18 first season the school has been in this predicament, COVID made
19 this year much more challenging. Clinton United Methodist Church



20 allowed them to use their gym for workouts, but that meant late
21 after school practices. The athletes would head home at the final
22 bell to complete their schoolwork, then gather at the church for
23 practice. The Lady Warriors began at 6:00 p.m. The boys started
24 at 8:30 p.m., once the girls finished. It was usually 10:00 p.m.
25 before practice was done. They played their only four "home"
26 games this season at the Sunnybrook Christian Home, while the rest
27 of the season was spent on the road. It was not a schedule for
28 the faint at heart, but the Warrior family preserved; and

29 WHEREAS, Coach Josh Zeitz is in his sixth year at Clinton
30 Christian Academy. He joined the staff in 2015 as head of the
31 boys basketball program and assistant with the baseball and
32 softball programs. Three years later, he took over as head coach
33 of the softball team, guiding them to back-to-back State
34 Championships. Then, he took over the coaching responsibilities
35 of the Lady Warriors Basketball Team, and the girls played for the
36 State Championship for the first time in the history of the
37 thirteen-year-old school; and

38 WHEREAS, the Warriors began the season favored to make a run
39 deep into the playoffs. The young group has played for four South
40 State Championships in the last five years and returned several
41 experienced players. Six members of their original nine-man
42 roster have been a part of Zeitz's program since the seventh
43 grade. They are led by sophomore, K.J. Sykes. The point guard is
44 a four-year starter who averaged 19 points, six assists, four



45 rebounds and four 4 steals per game this season. Transfer
46 students, Trey Alexander from Clinton High School and Jayy
47 Whitehead were key players on both ends of the floor. Another big
48 offensive push came from senior, Devin Collins, who made 75
49 three-pointers during the season. The team went undefeated in 3A,
50 finishing the regular season 29-6; and

51 WHEREAS, the Lady Warriors had a slightly more difficult
52 road. They started the season 5-9, and COVID concerns caused them
53 to lose five games over the Christmas break. However, with five
54 of the seven girls as members of the school's championship
55 softball team, they knew how to win. A key late-season run landed
56 them back into the State Championship Game with a regular season
57 finish 20-10. The team's balance makes them hard to defend. The
58 team is led by Coach Zeitz's daughter, Hanna, a senior point guard
59 who had 94 assists this season. However, scoring could come from
60 nearly any place on the court. Shooting guard, Maddie Weeks, led
61 the defensive effort and made 35 shots from outside the arc. Iris
62 Farve, who earned offensive MVP honors for the district, averaged
63 10 points and seven rebounds. Sophomore, Rilee Evans took home
64 the district MVP honors after leading the scoring for most of the
65 year. Those three got offensive help in the State Championship
66 from senior Grace Murray, who put up 20 points and snagged 11
67 rebounds. Callie Abraham and Audrey Bryson also provided vital
68 help from the bench; and



69 WHEREAS, Zeitz became only the second coach in MAIS history
70 to win both the girls and boys State Basketball Championships in
71 the same year; and

72 WHEREAS, the Warriors 2021 Championship Roster: Parker
73 Price, Brandon Birks, Jayy Whitehead, Collin Stepp, K.J. Sykes,
74 Jamar Guy, Devin Brown, Trey Alexander, Keiwon Rodgers, Bobby
75 Gibson, Noah Phillips, Jeremy Spiller, Grey Craft, Devin Collins,
76 Bray Farve, Head Coach Erica McCaskill; and Head Coach Josh Zeitz;
77 and

78 WHEREAS, the Lady Warriors 2021 Championship Roster: Sara
79 Sanders, Lindsea Razino, Grace Murray, Callie Abraham, Audrey
80 Bryson, Maddie Weeks, Hanna Zeitz, Rilee Evans, Chelsea Razino,
81 Abbey Abraham, Annie King, Ramsee Evans, Iris Farve, Maddie
82 Bruner; and Head Coach Josh Zeitz; and

83 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize these two
84 special teams who have brought honor to their school, their
85 community and to the State of Mississippi:

86 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
87 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the
88 Clinton Christian Academy "Warriors" and "Lady Warriors"
89 Basketball Teams and Coaches Josh Zeitz and Erica McCaskill for
90 making history with one Boys and Girls Midsouth Association of
91 Independent Schools Class 3A State Championship and extend to the
92 team, coaches, parents and sponsors our best wishes for future
93 success.



94 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
95 Coaches Josh Zeitz and Erica McCaskill and Headmaster Phillip
96 Broome, forwarded to the Clinton Christian Academy Board of
97 Trustees and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

