

By: Senator(s) Sparks

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 62

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE NEW SITE "LADY
2 ROYALS" GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM AND COACH BYRON SPARKS FOR WINNING
3 THE 2021 MHSAA CLASS 2A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

4 WHEREAS, New Site is an unincorporated community in the
5 northeast corner of Mississippi. In the last census, it was home
6 to 899 people, all of whom are passionate about basketball. On
7 March 5, 2021, at the Mississippi Coliseum, more than a three-hour
8 drive from New Site, at least that many red-shirted New Site fans
9 cheered their Lady Royals to a thrilling 55-50 victory over
10 Calhoun City for the Mississippi High School Activities
11 Association (MHSAA) State Class 2A Championship; and

12 WHEREAS, the New Site girls scrapped and shot their way past
13 an outstanding Calhoun City team that had entered the championship
14 match with a 25-1 record. This was terrific basketball, two
15 well-coached teams, played with precision and incredibly hard.
16 New Site, 33-2, prevailed; and

17 WHEREAS, the Royals made 7 of 16 three-point shots, often
18 penetrating the lane and then dishing the ball out to an open



19 shooter. Hannah Campbell, a senior and a four-year starter, made
20 three of four treys, scored 19 points and pulled down six rebounds
21 to win MVP honors. This was after she scored 31 to lead the
22 Royals past Newton in the semifinals. Campbell had plenty of
23 help. Ivy Loden, listed at 5-foot-4 inches but seeming shorter,
24 scored 15 points and drove the lane for big bucket after big
25 bucket in the fourth quarter. When Campbell missed a free throw
26 late with New Site leading by only two, Loden rebounded, was
27 fouled and made two free throws to make it a four-point game with
28 only 30 seconds remaining. Junior Lily Whitley, the only
29 non-senior in the lineup and the tallest Royal at 5-foot-10
30 inches, scored eight points and pulled down 13 rebounds; and

31 WHEREAS, Prentiss County is a rich piece of Mississippi
32 basketball history. New Site Coach Byron Sparks has been at the
33 school for 19 years, long enough to know, "It's a blessing to
34 coach at a place where the people care so much about basketball."
35 New Site fans nearly filled up one side of the Mississippi
36 Coliseum; and

37 WHEREAS, the 2021 New Site "Lady Royals" Basketball
38 Championship Team Roster: Skyler Lindsey, F; Aden Hooker, G;
39 Hannah Campbell, G; Gracie Yates, G; Ivy Loden, G; Ashlee Mathis,
40 G; Lindsey Dickerson, G; Anna Slack, G; Saydee Taylor, F; Maddie
41 Johnson, G; Allie Hutchens, F; Lily Whitley, F; and Emma Johnson,
42 G; and Head Coach Byron Sparks; and



43 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this group
44 of student athletes who have brought honor to their school, their
45 county where basketball is a way of life, and to the State of
46 Mississippi:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
48 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the New
49 Site "Lady Royals" Girls Basketball Team and Coach Byron Sparks
50 for winning the 2021 MHSAA Class 2A State Championship and extend
51 our best wishes to the team, coaches, parents and sponsors for
52 future success.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
54 Coach Byron Sparks and New Site Principal Ronald Clark, forwarded
55 to the Prentiss County School Board and made available to the
56 Capitol Press Corps.

