

By: Representative Williams-Barnes

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 50

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING MS. BRITTNEY REESE AND
2 CONGRATULATING HER UPON HER SUCCESSES AS A UNITED STATES OLYMPIC
3 GOLD AND SILVER MEDALIST.

4 WHEREAS, the great Magnolia State is proud to lay claim as
5 the mother state to some of the world's greatest and most elite
6 individuals of remarkably stellar talent, as evidenced in the life
7 and success of four-time Olympian, three-time Olympic medalist,
8 and Gulfport native, Ms. Brittney Reese; and

9 WHEREAS, born in Inglewood, California, to David Reese and
10 Carla Young, Gulfport, Mississippi, would become the place that
11 the 5 feet 8 inches powerhouse and world renowned long jumper,
12 Brittney Reese would establish her home roots, as well as the
13 place that would birth her love of the sport that literally
14 catapulted her career and made her an inspirational household
15 name, as she donned the mark and title of a United States
16 Olympian; and

17 WHEREAS, it was during her years as a member of Gulfport High
18 School's Track and Field Team that Ms. Reese perfected her form



19 and technique as a state champion long and triple jumper, innate
20 displays of sheer athleticism and grit, which broadened her
21 purview to a world of possibilities as a future collegiate star
22 and Olympic hopeful; and

23 WHEREAS, commencing her collegiate career in academia at
24 Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, where she was a
25 stand-out member of the institution's women's basketball team, and
26 she was recently inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame, Brittney
27 would subsequently transfer to the University of Mississippi (Ole
28 Miss), and it was here the prominent presence of her ascent to the
29 ranks as a top tier athlete skyrocketed while simultaneously
30 completing her baccalaureate degree as an English major in 2008;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, after solidifying her status as a national champion
33 after winning the NCAA Outdoor Championship in long jump in 2007
34 and 2008, the little girl from Gulfport became more than a
35 collegiate athlete, she became a local hero, national icon and
36 track and field phenomenon after securing her place as a member of
37 the U.S. Olympic Team for the 2008 Beijing Olympics while
38 competing at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon, with a
39 qualifying long jump of 22 feet 9.75 inches to give her a gold
40 medal; and

41 WHEREAS, since stepping into the spotlight on the world stage
42 in 2007, Brittney, now a 15-year professional athlete, has
43 competed in a combined total of 15 World Indoor/Outdoor



44 Championships and Olympic Games, and amassed an impressive
45 collection of 13 international medals, which include: four World
46 Outdoor Championships gold medals for 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2017;
47 three World Indoor Championships gold medals for 2010, 2012 and
48 2016; a World Indoor Championships silver medal for 2018; two
49 Olympic silver medals for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games and the 2020
50 Tokyo Olympic Games; and an Olympic gold medal for the 2012 London
51 Olympic Games; and

52 WHEREAS, Ms. Reese's career accomplishments on the national
53 stage from her years as a collegiate athlete under the guidelines
54 of the NCAA, to her climactic rise into the noble rankings of the
55 USATF as an eight-time national outdoor champion and four-time
56 national indoor champion, to the display of her star power at each
57 of the Olympic Trials in which she has competed in long jump, has
58 been predominately plated in silver and gold, with an occasional
59 hint of bronze sprinkled along the lining, as indicated by a
60 staggering 23 medals, one of which accounted for a bronze medal in
61 the high jump discipline; and

62 WHEREAS, living the story dreams are made of and igniting
63 sparks of inspiration in young girls and women around the globe
64 who have come to learn of and admire her perseverance to achieve
65 the pinnacle of excellence in all of her professional
66 undertakings, Brittney's exceptional gift and athletic feats have
67 afforded her the unique opportunity to gain access and exposure to
68 parts of the world, many can only imagine visiting, including:



69 Osaka and Tokyo, Japan; Beijing, China; Berlin, Germany; Doha,
70 Qatar; Daegu, South Korea; Istanbul, Turkey; London, United
71 Kingdom; Moscow, Russia; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and practically
72 every state in the contiguous United States; and

73 WHEREAS, with personal bests of 7.31 meters and 7.23 meters,
74 Brittney, who has only been outjumped by two other women in
75 American history, including the legendary and iconic Jackie
76 Joyner-Kersey, remains committed to fostering the hopes of
77 aspiring athletes, not only in her capacity as assistant track and
78 field and high jumping coach at San Diego Mesa College since 2013,
79 her philanthropy has led to the establishment of the annual B.
80 Reese Scholarship in conjunction with her high school alma mater
81 and Gulfport School District, as well as the Reese Scholarship
82 coordinated by the Athletics Director of the Baltimore County
83 Public Schools for students who participated in the Allied Sports
84 Program; and

85 WHEREAS, while the world lays its eyes to consider Ms.
86 Reese's athletics success and inventory of awards and medals as
87 honors worthy of recognition, Brittney would undoubtedly beg to
88 differ, as she considers her greatest accomplishment and most
89 prized possession takes on the form of motherhood to her son,
90 Alex; and

91 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to take
92 exception in recognizing the astounding accomplishments of such a
93 remarkable individual as Brittney Reese, who ignited the flame to



94 blaze her trail to international stardom and acclaim in the
95 Gulfport community, and who continues to exude the genuine
96 hospitality incumbently characteristic of one whose pride in
97 Mississippi remains dear to her heart:

98 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
99 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
100 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend Ms. Brittney Reese,
101 congratulate her upon her successes as a United States Olympic
102 gold and silver medalist, and extend our best wishes for continued
103 success in all her personal and professional endeavors.

104 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
105 furnished to Ms. Brittney Reese and to the members of the Capitol
106 Press Corps.

