

By: Senator(s) McLendon, Parker, Blackwell, Barnett, Butler (38th) To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 553

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 "PRIDE OF DESOTO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND" AND DIRECTOR
3 DENNIS COX FOR WINNING THE 2021 MHSAA CLASS 6A MARCHING BAND
4 CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, we join the students, faculty, parents and citizens
6 of DeSoto County in recognizing the "Pride of DeSoto Central High
7 School Marching Band" for winning the 2021 Mississippi High School
8 Activities Association (MHSAA) Class 6A Marching Band Championship
9 held on November 1, 2021, and for their history of band
10 excellence; and

11 WHEREAS, the Pride of DeSoto Central High School Marching
12 Band is comprised of over 130 students from Olive Branch,
13 Southaven and Nesbit, Mississippi. They have been led by Dennis
14 Cox, Director of Bands at DeSoto Central High School for the past
15 22 years. Assistant Directors are Devin Burgess, Tyler Hart and
16 Jocelyn Hembruch; and

17 WHEREAS, students are given many opportunities to develop and
18 use their musical talents, learn organizational skills, and
19 develop lasting peer relationships spanning all grades. In



20 addition, they quickly develop a strong understanding of
21 individual responsibility, discipline and accountability to
22 contribute to the overall success of the entire band. These life
23 skills will serve them well in everything they attempt in the
24 future. The entire band program serves about 500 students total,
25 Grades 6-12; and

26 WHEREAS, in the 17 years of the band's existence, they have
27 won 342 "Superior" ratings, 171 "Most Outstanding" ratings, 10
28 "Parade Grand Championships" and 94 "Grand Champion Awards". The
29 "Pride" has been the Mississippi Marching Band State Champions
30 five times, District II Marching Champions 10 times, and a BCS
31 National Marching Champion. They have performed at the Walt
32 Disney Magic Kingdom Parade in Orlando, Florida, the Hollywood
33 Christmas Parade in Hollywood, California, the Preakness
34 Celebration Parade in Baltimore, Maryland, the U.S. Capitol in
35 Washington D.C., Mississippi Governor's Inaugural Parade in
36 Jackson, Mississippi, the Fiesta Flambeau Parade in San Antonio,
37 Texas, the Chicago Memorial Day Parade in Chicago, Illinois, and
38 they were the feature band in the 2012 and 2019 Indy 500 Parade
39 and Opening Ceremonies for the race. The Pride of DeSoto Central
40 Band also has participated in Bands of America Competitions in St.
41 Louis, Missouri, Powder Springs, Georgia, Clarksville, Tennessee,
42 Jacksonville, Alabama, and Indianapolis, Indiana, as well as the
43 BCS National Championship in New Orleans, Louisiana. They have
44 been a Mississippi Sweepstakes winner for the past 10 years; and



45 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we acknowledge the
46 musical history of this outstanding group of students who have
47 again brought honor to their school, their community and to the
48 State of Mississippi:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
50 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
51 we do hereby commend and congratulate the "Pride of DeSoto Central
52 High School Marching Band" and Director Dennis Cox for winning the
53 2021 MHSAA Class 6A Marching Band Championship, and extend to the
54 band members, directors, parents and sponsors our best wishes for
55 continued success.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
57 Director of Bands Dennis Cox and DeSoto Central Principal Cliff
58 Johnston, forwarded to the DeSoto County Board of Education, and
59 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

