

By: Senator(s) Sparks, Barnett

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 598

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 BOONEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL "LADY BLUE DEVILS" GIRLS FAST-PITCH
3 SOFTBALL TEAM AND COACH JESSICA TAYLOR FOR WINNING THEIR FIRST
4 MHSAA CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, the Booneville High School "Lady Blue Devils" had
6 never won a State Championship in fast-pitch softball, or even
7 played in a Championship Series. That just made the May 13, 2021,
8 6-1 win over Raleigh High School to clinch the 2021 Mississippi
9 High School Activities Association (MHSAA) 3A Championship all the
10 sweeter; and

11 WHEREAS, "These kids have worked so hard since last year when
12 they got their season cut short. From day one, they've been
13 grinding every single day. This was our ultimate goal and to come
14 here and win is indescribable. It makes everything we've done and
15 all the work we've put in worth it," said Booneville Coach Jessica
16 Taylor; and

17 WHEREAS, the Lady Blue Devils (30-4) jumped all over the
18 Raleigh starter who held this same Booneville lineup to two hits
19 in Game One. Janet Thompson and Hallie Burns both singled in the



20 top of the first, and eighth-grader Olivia Garrett turned on the
21 third pitch she saw and launched it over the left-center wall.
22 Garrett's blast gave Booneville a lead it never relinquished, but
23 she and Burns weren't finished. They added back-to-back RBI
24 doubles in the sixth inning, and Hannah Davis got in on the act
25 with an RBI single to give Booneville six runs. Garrett went
26 3-for-4 at the plate with four RBIs, and Burns was 2-for-4. Both
27 of them scored twice; and

28 WHEREAS, Booneville has returning talent; the Lady Blue
29 Devils will graduate six players, but return the core of the
30 lineup, including Burns and Garrett. "We're going to miss these
31 seniors. They have worked so hard for four years to get this
32 reward. We like this feeling too much" Taylor said; and

33 WHEREAS, Hallie Burns threw a complete-game one-hitter to
34 give Booneville a 1-0 win over Raleigh in Game 1 of MHSAA 3A
35 Fast-Pitch Softball Championship on May 12, 2021. She threw 66 of
36 her 81 pitches for a strike, walked one hitter and allowed one hit
37 with 14 strikeouts. She struck out every hitter in the Raleigh
38 lineup at least once; and

39 WHEREAS, a lot of folks might struggle in a big-game
40 environment in front of a lot of fans. Booneville's Hallie Burns
41 thrived on it; and

42 WHEREAS, the 2021 Lady Blue Devils Fast-Pitch Softball
43 Championship Roster: Amelia Nelson, Najah Friar, Sophie Sandlin,
44 Makylah Pippins, Saylor Ellan, Ekford Ikea, Shaylea King, Madison



45 Owens, Jalia Walden, Sara Hatch, Niayonna Agnew, Ashley
46 Cunningham, Kathryn Donahue, Hallie Burns, Jordyn Wilson, Olivia
47 Garrett, Madi Sartain, Kyra King, Claudia Wilson, Taylor Brooke
48 White, Abbie McKinney, Makenzie Eldridge and Maddix Lambert; and
49 Coach Jessica Taylor; and

50 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this group
51 of student athletes who have brought honor to their school, their
52 community and to the State of Mississippi:

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
54 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
55 we do hereby commend and congratulate the Booneville High School
56 "Lady Blue Devils" Girls Fast-Pitch Softball Team and Coach
57 Jessica Taylor for winning their first MHSAA Class 3A State
58 Championship, and extend the team, coaches, parents and sponsors
59 our best wishes for future successes.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
61 Coach Jessica Taylor and Booneville High School Principal Bo
62 Sandlin, forwarded to the Booneville School Board and made
63 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

