

By: Representative Creekmore IV

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 105

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING HIGH
2 SCHOOL, COLLEGE AND PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL CAREER AS WELL AS THE
3 IMPRESSIVE BASKETBALL COACHING CAREER OF JOHN STROUD.

4 WHEREAS, John Stroud is one of the greatest basketball
5 players to grace the court in the State of Mississippi, and his
6 statistical record is one that dreams and legends are made of; and

7 WHEREAS, born on October 29, 1957, to Johnny and Frances
8 Stroud, John Stroud is an All-American former basketball player
9 and coach who played for four years at the University of
10 Mississippi, before being drafted by the Houston Rockets in the
11 second round of the 1980 NBA Draft as their first pick, and
12 following his playing career, he coached for 32 years at various
13 levels; and

14 WHEREAS, John Stroud followed in both his father's and his
15 mother's footsteps when he first outfitted himself in the West
16 Union High School basketball uniform, as in 1944, his father's
17 team won the state championship and his mother's team ranked third
18 in the state, and his father was the first Mississippi player to



19 make All-State all four years of high school play and his mother
20 made All-State three years; and

21 WHEREAS, during his tenure at West Union High School, John
22 was All-American, All-State, played in the Mississippi High School
23 All-Star game and received his baseball letterman; and

24 WHEREAS, after finishing at West Union High School, John
25 signed with the University of Mississippi, and he played for the
26 Rebels from 1976 through 1980, and during the 1978-1979 season, he
27 led the SEC in scoring with 26.3 points per game and was named as
28 an All-American honorable mention; and

29 WHEREAS, John again led the SEC in scoring in the 1979-1980
30 season with 25.2 points per game, and during his time at Ole Miss,
31 he led the Rebels to their first postseason tournament victory
32 over Grambling 76-74 at Tad Smith Coliseum in the National
33 Invitational Tournament; and

34 WHEREAS, additionally, during his career in Oxford, John
35 recorded the highest career point total in Ole Miss history and is
36 still the third-most in league history with 2,328 points and sixth
37 in field goals made in the SEC with 894, and he is fifth in free
38 throws made in a season at 233, as only Pete Maravich and Bailey
39 Howell made more free throws in a season and only five players
40 have attempted more free throws in a single season in the SEC than
41 he has; and

42 WHEREAS, John's 39 points in the first round of the 1979 SEC
43 tournament ranks as the second most points ever scored in an SEC



44 tournament game, and likewise, his 15 field goals in that game are
45 the second most in a tournament game; and

46 WHEREAS, following his senior season in 1979-1980, John was
47 selected to All-American honors for the second straight season and
48 named SEC Athlete of the Year, and after his stellar senior year
49 at Ole Miss, he was the top choice of the Houston Rockets in the
50 1980 NBA draft; and

51 WHEREAS, John played with the Rockets from 1980 until 1981
52 and was a member of the 1981 team that lost to the Boston Celtics
53 in the NBA Finals, and after his tenure with the Rockets, he
54 played the 1982-1983 season in Europe with Caja de Ronda, located
55 in Málaga, Spain; and

56 WHEREAS, after his basketball playing career ended, John
57 began a remarkable and successful coaching career, with his first
58 coaching job landing him at the University of Alabama in 1984 as a
59 graduate assistant; and

60 WHEREAS, in 1985, he became the head basketball coach at W.P.
61 Daniel High School in New Albany, Mississippi, where he helmed the
62 boy's program to back-to-back state championships in 1986 and
63 1987, and he compiled a 71-24 record in three years; and

64 WHEREAS, John accepted the head coaching position at East
65 Mississippi Community College (EMCC) in Scooba, in 1988, and
66 immediately started making an impact, as he led EMCC to its
67 first-ever state tournament appearance and its first regional
68 tournament appearance in 25 years; and



69 WHEREAS, in his two seasons at EMCC, John compiled a 30-30
70 record and was named the Mississippi Junior College Coach of the
71 Year following the 1989-1990 season before assuming the reins of
72 the Millsaps' basketball program the following year; and

73 WHEREAS, John began an illustrious career at Millsaps College
74 in 1990, and during his thirteen-year career, he guided his team
75 to three Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference championships and
76 led the Majors to three National Collegiate Athletic Association
77 (NCAA) tournament appearances; and

78 WHEREAS, the two-time SCAC Coach of the Year and the all-time
79 wins leader at Millsaps, John compiled a record of 204-131,
80 reaching the 200-victory plateau that season in a 71-48 triumph
81 over Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on January 31, 2003, and
82 suffering only two losing seasons while at Millsaps, John posted
83 seven seasons of at least 16 wins, including three campaigns of 20
84 wins or more; and

85 WHEREAS, John's best year at Millsaps came in 1994-1995 as he
86 led the Majors to a 25-3 mark, an SCAC title, and a trip to the
87 NCAA Division III Sweet 16, a true testament to his unrivaled
88 coaching abilities; and

89 WHEREAS, upon his retirement from Millsaps in 2003, then
90 President Frances Lucas-Tauchar commented, "John has given
91 Millsaps College 13 years of superior leadership and coaching. He
92 is also a personal role model, which is the ultimate form of
93 teaching, and he will be greatly missed."; and



94 WHEREAS, after his retirement, John returned to New Albany
95 and went into private business, first by purchasing an insurance
96 agency and later by opening a dry cleaners, and he has
97 subsequently been inducted into the SEC Business Hall of Fame; and

98 WHEREAS, unable to stay away from the court and the coaching
99 arena, in 2004, John became the coach of the girls team at New
100 Albany High School, where he compiled a 248-131 record over 13
101 years and won the Class 4A state title in 2011, and his New Albany
102 team also made appearances in the Mississippi High School Athletic
103 Association (MHSAA) state tournaments in 2009 as a semifinalist,
104 in 2010 as the Class 4A runner-up, and in 2015, as a
105 quarterfinalist, losing in triple overtime to Bay High School; and

106 WHEREAS, John retired yet again from coaching in 2017, but
107 continues to give back to his community in a multitude of ways,
108 including Kiwanis Clubs International, Tate Reeves for Governor
109 Financial Advisory Board, Family Medical Group Advisory Council,
110 New Albany Main Street Association, Union County Development
111 Association, First United Methodist Church Administration Board
112 and Tanglefoot Trail Corporate Sponsor; and

113 WHEREAS, John has received the following awards: Regions SEC
114 Business Hall of Fame; Ole Miss Student Hall of Fame; Colonel
115 Rebel and Student Senate (1980); Outstanding Young Men of America
116 (1987); Runner-up Clarion Ledger's Most Popular Athlete
117 Mississippi sports history (1989); West Union High School Alumni
118 Hall of Fame (1991); Ole Miss Athletic Hall of Fame (1995); SEC



119 Living Legends Team, Atlanta, Georgia (1999); Millsaps Athletic
120 Hall of Fame (2005); SEC Business Hall of Fame (2007); and
121 Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame (2009); and

122 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
123 recognize and pay homage to the stellar athletic feats of sports
124 legends of John Stroud's caliber, who are few and far between and
125 have brought honor and glory to the State of Mississippi:

126 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
127 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
128 commend and celebrate the outstanding high school, college,
129 professional and coaching career of John Stroud and extend most
130 sincere wishes for success in all his future endeavors.

131 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
132 furnished to John Stroud and to the members of the Capitol Press
133 Corps.

