

By: Representative Arnold

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 152

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE 2022-2023
2 BOONEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LADY BLUE DEVILS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM UPON
3 WINNING THE MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION CLASS
4 3A STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE
5 SEASON.

6 WHEREAS, the Booneville High School Lady Blue Devils Girls
7 Basketball Team reign supreme yet again after finishing the
8 2022-2023 season with an impressive 30-3 record, and capturing the
9 Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) Class 3A
10 State Basketball Championship for the second consecutive season,
11 and the program's fourth state girls' basketball championship; and

12 WHEREAS, throughout their season, the Lady Devils played with
13 clear eyes, full hearts and unimaginable amounts of strength, and
14 during the state championship game on March 4, 2023, their mental
15 stamina and athletic prowess never wavered from the moment they
16 first hustled onto the court until the final buzzer, as they
17 outlasted, outplayed and ultimately overpowered Forest High School
18 Lady Bearcats, with a domineering 58-31 win; and



19 WHEREAS, to claim this illustrious victory, the team relied
20 on their swift feet, accurate shooting and strategic defensive
21 moves to stop the opposing offense and outmaneuver their defense,
22 which ultimately allowed them to bring home the golden basketball
23 for the second consecutive season, as evidenced by the dynamic
24 contributions of Sa'Niya Cook with a game-high of 20 points, who
25 also earned MVP honors, and Ava Kathryn Smith netting an
26 additional 19 points; and

27 WHEREAS, during the championship game, the Lady Devils kept
28 their focus and played one of their best games of the season, and
29 initially jumped out to a 9-0 lead at the start of the game, but
30 the Lady Bearcats mounted a 6-2 run, cutting the Lady Devils' lead
31 to 11-6 at the end of the first quarter, and after leading at the
32 half 30-8, the Lady Devils responded to each of the Lady Bearcats'
33 attempts to cut into their lead by never allowing their lead to
34 dwindle below 20 points, and Cook sealed the team's fate as
35 eventual champions by sinking four consecutive free throws in the
36 fourth quarter, securing an insurmountable 51-26 lead; and

37 WHEREAS, the Booneville High School Lady Blue Devils Girls
38 Basketball Team is comprised of the following talented athletes:
39 Ava Kathryn Smith, Madison Owens, Shaylea King, Josie Dawson, Sara
40 Hatch, Arlaina Rogers, Chloe Ruth, Hadley Hurt, Kellan Johnson,
41 Hallie Burns, Kylee Johnson, Kenleigh Jackson, Madison Middleton,
42 Emsley Murphy, Olivia Garrett, Kaylee Johnson, Allie Gillespie,
43 Taylor Brooke White, Sa'Niya Cook, Abby Morgan, Kaylee Wildmon,



44 Makylah Pippins, Katherine Gillon, Hana Hurt, Kymani Smith, Kierra
45 Slack, Raven McKinney and Jadyndy Lindsey; and

46 WHEREAS, the Lady Devils have been superbly coached and
47 inspired by Head Coach Michael Smith, and Assistant Coaches, Micah
48 Moment, Bryant Tynes, Cole Lauderdale, Chip Johnson and Kenny Paul
49 Geno, who have broadened the players' knowledge of the game and
50 refined their skills in execution; and

51 WHEREAS, having achieved legendary status this season by
52 becoming the first coach in Mississippi history to win
53 back-to-back boys and girls state championships, Coach Smith
54 continues to build upon the legacy of superior play and true
55 sportsmanship forged by the tenacious and undaunted spirit of each
56 team member, as evidenced in their ability to produce high caliber
57 players, plays and undoubtedly, by the team's successful season;
58 and

59 WHEREAS, the members of this team will carry the
60 unforgettable memories they made along their way to championship
61 status, as well as the lessons of hard work, dedication and
62 perseverance learned during this amazing season, throughout their
63 lives as they are constantly flooded with the feeling of greatness
64 that accompanies being a champion; and

65 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
66 recognize and commend excellence, especially that displayed by the
67 Booneville High School Lady Blue Devils Girls Basketball Team, and
68 it is with great pride that we congratulate this elite group of



69 student-athletes and Head Coach Michael Smith, who have brought
70 honor to their school, community and to the great State of
71 Mississippi:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
73 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
74 commend and congratulate the 2022-2023 Booneville High School Lady
75 Blue Devils Girls Basketball Team upon winning the Mississippi
76 High School Activities Association (MHSAA) Class 3A State
77 Basketball Championship for the second consecutive season, and
78 extend best wishes for continued success in all their future
79 endeavors.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
81 furnished to Head Coach Michael Smith and to the members of the
82 Capitol Press Corps.

