

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.

