

By: Representatives Foster, Blackmon,
Bailey, Anthony, Denton, Osborne, Straughter

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 172

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE TOUGALOO
2 COLLEGE "BULLDOGS" MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH ERIC
3 STROTHERS FOR WINNING THE 2022-2023 GULF COAST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
4 (GCAC) REGULAR SEASON AND TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE
5 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS OPENING ROUNDS
6 CHAMPIONSHIP.

7 WHEREAS, the Tougaloo College "Bulldogs" Men's Basketball
8 Team clinched the 2022-2023 Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC)
9 Regular Season and Tournament Championships titles, making them
10 back-to-back GCAC Regular Season and Tournament Champions, and
11 clinching the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics
12 Opening Rounds Championship; and

13 WHEREAS, the Bulldogs close out the climactic regular season
14 with an incredible 32-2 season record, the team's first 30-plus
15 games winning season, which entailed a perfect 14-0 Gulf Coast
16 Athletic Conference record, marking a major feat for the program
17 and one of many firsts in Tougaloo's history of existence, in
18 addition to the college's first NAIA National Tournament Opening
19 Rounds Championship and first NAIA National Tournament
20 Quarterfinals appearance; and



21 WHEREAS, the Bulldog's ascent to the top pitted them against
22 well-contended and equally zealous opponents in hard-fought
23 battles on both sides of the ball, but the Bulldogs dug their
24 heels in during each match with a tenacious drive and mettle to
25 amplify their efforts to reign victorious; and

26 WHEREAS, the Tougaloo College "Bulldogs" Men's Basketball
27 Team is comprised of the following talented athletes: Antonio
28 Patterson, Cameron Copeland, Andre' Brunt, Trajan Fielder, Antwan
29 Beans, Cameron Woodall, Tyler Berryhill, Tyler Crump, John Wesley
30 Taylor, Darian Pierce, Jr., Jamal Wiley, Karl Johnson, De'Arius
31 Henyard, Kevin Byrd, Darryl Jones, Demarcquize Washington,
32 Ze'Terrius Rice and Chavis Banks; and

33 WHEREAS, the team's statistics were impressive this season,
34 but the key to the team's remarkable success has been the constant
35 atmosphere of unity, year-round hard work and outstanding
36 performances by several players, which led to the receipt of
37 numerous individual honors and recognitions, including: the
38 selection of Cameron Copeland as 2023 GCAC Player of the Year,
39 All-GCAC First Team, Tournament MVP and 2023 NAIA All-America
40 Second Team; the naming of Trajan Fielder to the All-GCAC Second
41 Team and recipient of the NAIA Champions of Character Award; the
42 naming of Cameron Woodall to the All-GCAC Second Team; and the
43 naming of Darryl Jones to the All-GCAC Second Team, All-Defensive
44 Team and All-Tournament Team; and



45 WHEREAS, the Bulldogs have been superbly coached and inspired
46 by Head Coach Eric Strothers and Assistant Coaches Thomas Billups,
47 Chris Stephens and John Neal, who have each broadened the players'
48 knowledge of the game, while refining their skills in execution;
49 and

50 WHEREAS, Coach Strothers and the assistant coaches continue
51 to build upon the legacy of superior play and true sportsmanship
52 forged by the tenacious and undaunted spirit of each team member,
53 as evidenced in their ability to produce high caliber players and
54 by the team's successful season, which also proved rewarding for
55 Coach Strothers, who was tapped as the 2023 GCAC Coach of the
56 Year, and Assistant Coach Thomas Billups, who was named 2023 GCAC
57 Assistant Coach of the Year; and

58 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
59 recognize this special group of collegiate student-athletes who
60 have reached the pinnacles of collegiate basketball excellence and
61 have brought honor to their learning institution, their community
62 and to the State of Mississippi:

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
64 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
65 commend and congratulate the Tougaloo College "Bulldogs" Men's
66 Basketball Team, Head Coach Eric Strothers and assistant coaches
67 for winning the 2022-2023 GCAC Regular Season and Tournament
68 Championships titles and clinching the NAIA Opening Rounds



69 Championship, and extend to the athletes and coaches best wishes
70 for continued success.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
72 furnished to Head Coach Eric Strothers, Assistant Coaches Thomas
73 Billups, Chris Stephens and John Neal, President Carmen J. Walters
74 and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

