

By: Senator(s) Michel, Boyd, Hopson, Turner-
Ford, Carter, Sparks, Parks, Fillingane,
Younger, Kirby, Blackwell, Chassaniol, DeBar,
Blount, McLendon, England, Caughman,
McCaughn, Williams, Suber, Barnett, Butler
(38th), Hill, Hickman, Jackson, Moran,
Norwood, Simmons (13th) To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 520

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CELEBRATING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI "OLE MISS REBELS" BASEBALL TEAM AND HEAD
3 COACH MIKE BIANCO, INCLUDING THE ATHLETES, COACHING STAFF,
4 ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, STUDENTS AND ALUMNI, FOR WINNING THE 2022
5 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION 1 BASEBALL
6 CHAMPIONSHIP.

7 WHEREAS, Coach Mike Bianco's "Rebels," once 7-14 in their own
8 league, defeated the Oklahoma "Sooners" 4-2 to sweep the
9 Best-of-Three Championship and win the College World Series on
10 Sunday, June 29, 2022; and

11 WHEREAS, these "Rebels" never quit hoping or believing or
12 working. "Life is tough and there's bad things that happen to
13 everybody," Bianco said postgame. "These guys have worked really
14 hard and I think they've shown a lot of people that you can fall
15 down, you can stumble and you can fail, but that doesn't mean
16 you're a failure. If you continue to push and you continue to
17 believe, as Tim (Elko) said, you can accomplish anything"; and

18 WHEREAS, by becoming national champions, the "Rebels" have
19 realized college baseball's ultimate goal. They have worked their
20 way back from 22-17 on May 1, 2022, to a final record of 42-23,



21 including a remarkable 10-1 run through the NCAA Tournament. The
22 team that lost at home to Southeast Missouri 13-3 on April 19
23 claimed the National Championship on June 26, defeating the mighty
24 Oklahoma "Sooners," undefeated in the College World Series before
25 they ran into Ole Miss; and

26 WHEREAS, this was no easy road. Ole Miss, the last team to
27 receive an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, had to run the
28 gauntlet as a low seed through Miami, then Hattiesburg, then
29 Omaha; and

30 WHEREAS, in Omaha, the "Rebels" did not lack support and
31 encouragement. Roughly, 20,000 Ole Miss fans were present at
32 Charles Schwab Field, often standing, screaming and waving towels
33 at all the right moments. The crowd fed off the "Rebels'" energy,
34 and the "Rebels" fed off the crowd's. Afterward, the winners
35 circled the field, high-fiving joyous fans. There were Ole Miss
36 fans reaching over one another to lean over the fence in every
37 section of the stadium. Nearly an hour after the game had ended,
38 Ole Miss fans still stood and cheered; and

39 WHEREAS, Ole Miss had many heroes, including shortstop Jacob
40 Gonzalez, who was responsible for three of his team's six hits.
41 He hit a solo home run for the game's first run in the sixth and
42 then knocked in a crucial, tying run with a sharp single in the
43 eighth. Freshman Hunter Elliott, who is 19 years old and pitches
44 as if he is 29, started on the mound and pitched 6.2 innings of
45 two-run, three-hit baseball. Senior John Gaddis pitched the



46 "Rebels" out of a seventh inning mess and gave his team 1.1
47 innings of nearly perfect pitching, and that set the stage for
48 closer Brandon Johnson, who went right at the "Sooners" and
49 recorded three straight strikeouts on 14 pitches to save the
50 victory in the ninth inning. "It was a dream come true," Johnson
51 said. "Ever since you're a little kid, you dream of being on the
52 mound in those situations. And when it happened, you just let go
53 of yourself because you realize you did do it"; and

54 WHEREAS, Coach Bianco deserves much of the credit as well,
55 and not only for keeping his team's spirits up during the bad
56 times earlier in the season and making all the right strategy
57 calls in the College World Series. There were still more Ole Miss
58 heroes; TJ McCants got the three-run, eighth inning rally started
59 with a ringing single to center, and ever-dependable Justin Bench
60 then moved him all the way to third with a line-drive single to
61 right field. Of course, some of the loudest postgame cheers were
62 for Elko, the captain and spiritual leader of these National
63 Champions. Said Elko, "There's just so much to be said about how
64 much we overcame this year, how much we had to fight through, how
65 much we had to pick each other up and never let ourselves get too
66 down. This story of our season is going to be told for years and
67 years and years to come"; and

68 WHEREAS, the members of the 2022 National Collegiate Baseball
69 Team are: Peyton Chatagnier, Derek Diamond, Hudson Sapp, Knox
70 Loper, Reagan Burford, Jacob Gonzalez, Justin Bench, Hayden



71 Leatherwood, Kemp Alderman, Hayden Dunhurst, Tim Simay, TJ
72 McCants, John Kramer, Mitch Murrell, Matt Parenteau, Calvin
73 Harris, Drew McDaniel, Max Cioffi, Josh Mallitz, Jackson Kimbrell,
74 Tim Elko, Hunter Elliott, John Gaddis, Banks Tolley, Luke Ellis,
75 Noah Magee, Ben Van Cleve, Riley Maddox, Kevin Graham, Brandon
76 Johnson, Logan Savell, Jack Dougherty, Garrett Wood, Cole Baker,
77 Dylan DeLucia, Mason Nichols, Brayden Jones, Blake McGehee, Tywone
78 Malone, Wes Burton and Jack Washbuurn; Head Coach, Mike Bianco;
79 Assistant Coaches, Mike Clement and Carl Lafferty; Volunteer
80 Assistant Coach, Chris Cleary; Coordinator of Operations -
81 Internal Affairs, Chris Goudoras; Coordinator of Operations -
82 External Affairs, Sam Slavik; Senior Athletic Trainer, Joshua
83 Porter; Strength and Conditioning Coach, Zach Boone; Assistant
84 Director of Academic Support, Sheila Padgett; Student Managers,
85 Nathan Bledsoe, Blaine Calcagno, Jacob Melendez, Hayden
86 Scarbrough, Charles Spencer and John Ross Swaim; and

87 WHEREAS, the 2022 University of Mississippi Baseball Team has
88 brought great pride and honor to Ole Miss loyal fans of the
89 University of Mississippi and to the entire State of Mississippi:

90 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
91 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
92 we do hereby celebrate and congratulate the University of
93 Mississippi "Ole Miss Rebels" Baseball Team and Head Coach Mike
94 Bianco, including the athletes, coaching staff, administration,



95 faculty, students and alumni, for winning the 2022 National
96 Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Baseball Championship.

97 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we do hereby recognize the
98 University of Mississippi for its excellence as an institution of
99 higher education.

100 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
101 the Chancellor of the University of Mississippi, Glenn F. Boyce,
102 the Athletic Director of the University of Mississippi, Keith
103 Carter, the Head Coach of the Ole Miss Baseball Team, Mike Bianco,
104 the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and
105 be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

