

By: Senator(s) Caughman, Barrett, Butler
(36th), Barnett, Butler (38th)

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 29

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING CO-LIN LEGENDARY
2 BASKETBALL COACH GWYN YOUNG ON CAREER WIN NO. 1,000.

3 WHEREAS, on January 19, 2023, in Wesson, Mississippi, the
4 Copiah-Lincoln Women's Basketball Team gave everyone in attendance
5 what they were looking for with a win over East Mississippi
6 Community College. However, more significantly, the 74-62 victory
7 was career win No. 1,000 for legendary Copiah-Lincoln Community
8 College Head Coach Gwyn Young; and

9 WHEREAS, the landmark victory came inside Mullen Gymnasium on
10 the court that bears his name as it was christened "Gwyn Young
11 Court" in 2011; and

12 WHEREAS, knowing that the milestone victory was a
13 possibility, the Copiah-Lincoln side of the bleachers was filled
14 with former players and their families, who had come to support
15 Coach Young. Many of those former players are now coaches
16 themselves. Alumni TeAirra Wilbert-Menzie (Hazlehurst High) and
17 Traveilyn Smith (Jefferson County) are both head coaches who



18 brought their teams to Mullen Gymnasium to see the historic win;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, when Coach Young was hired by former Co-Lin
21 President Billy B. Thames in 1975, his job responsibilities were
22 clearly laid out. Teaching math was his first responsibility as
23 he did so as a high school teacher on the campus at what was then
24 Co-Lin High School. He was also to be an assistant to the junior
25 college's men's basketball team and Head Coach William Lewis.
26 Thirdly, he was to coach the fledgling women's basketball team;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, the 1970s were the beginning of the emergence of
29 women's basketball in the United States. In 1971, the rules were
30 changed to make it a normal full-court 5-on-5 game. In 1972,
31 Title IX was signed into law, requiring schools to support women's
32 athletics with the same resources that were given to the men's
33 programs; and

34 WHEREAS, the AIAW administered the early postseason
35 tournaments and during that time, The Mississippi University for
36 Women and Delta State University were two of the best teams in the
37 nation; and

38 WHEREAS, Coach Young's first female team finished 19-7.
39 Young recalled win No. 1 that came 50 years ago. "I believe we
40 beat East Central, and they'd been really good and were one of the
41 teams that really got women's basketball going within our
42 association," said Coach Young. "I just remember that Coach Woods



43 (ECCC Hall of Famer Lucille Woods) was really hot when we beat
44 them"; and

45 WHEREAS, the numbers for Coach Young are overwhelming when
46 you lay them out. The 1980-1981 squad finished 7-16 and Young's
47 team wouldn't post another sub. 500 record for the next 39 years,
48 seeing that streak broken by a COVID-19-riddled campaign in
49 2020-2021 (5-9). He has won eight State Championships and has
50 taken his team to the NJCAA National Tournament six times. His
51 1989 team finished fourth in the nation while the 2010 team
52 finished seventh in the nation and the 2011 squad finished sixth
53 at the National Tournament in Salina, Kansas. He has sent players
54 on to continue their careers and education at schools located all
55 over the country. He is the winningest active coach in NJCAA
56 basketball and that is for both the men's and women's side of the
57 game; and

58 WHEREAS, when Coach Young reaches win No. 1,008, he will be
59 the winningest NJCAA Women's Basketball Coach of all-time, passing
60 David Kragel who coached at Walters State in Morristown,
61 Tennessee, for 43 years. Co-Lin and Walters State actually met in
62 the 2010 NJCAA National Tournament. The Co-Lin "Wolves" took that
63 meeting 64-56. The story the raw numbers paint can never tell of
64 all the lives changed and impacted by Coach Young during his 47
65 years at Co-Lin; and

66 WHEREAS, when asked over the years about his success, Coach
67 Young always points the praise back to his players. If he were to



68 write a book about the things he has seen and heard during the
69 five decades of going to some of the smallest and largest gyms
70 across Mississippi and Louisiana in the pursuit of recruits, you
71 would have a hard time believing some of his best tales; and

72 WHEREAS, Coach Young once signed a player from the nation of
73 Hungary that came to the United States with no ability to speak
74 English. The ladies involved with tutoring services at Co-Lin
75 during that time taught her English by ordering a
76 Hungarian-English dictionary; and

77 WHEREAS, many of his best players have come from local
78 programs like Bogue Chitto, Brookhaven High, Franklin County, Loyd
79 Star and others dotted around Southwest Mississippi. Before
80 celebrating at a reception after the win over EMCC, he made sure
81 to speak to local recruits who were in the gym. He has signed and
82 coached the daughters of former players and inked plenty of
83 recruits who suited up for one of his former players on the high
84 school level. He has never done it alone though, as his wife,
85 Velesta, has been right beside him, as well as his daughter,
86 Jessica, and son, Lane. Lane Young has been an assistant for his
87 dad at Copiah-Lincoln Community College since 2017; and

88 WHEREAS, Velesta Young still invites each new team into the
89 family home for Sunday night post-practice brownies and rotel dip
90 as the group bonds over the course of the season. One of Coach
91 Young's greatest strengths is how he figures out what each team
92 does well and emphasizes that during his practices and game



93 planning. Over the years, he has had teams that pressed in the
94 full court and groups who shot more three-pointers than his
95 current team does. He has had teams that played inside/out and
96 threw the ball into the post on every trip and other groups have
97 been more guard-focused; and

98 WHEREAS, his teams will always run plays in the offensive end
99 of the halfcourt, and they will often run out-of-bound plays
100 better than 90% of the teams they face. Practice is highly
101 structured and a mix of drills and running through plays against
102 live defense. Every game is followed with a film session during
103 which Coach Young highlights the plays and efforts that he liked
104 and didn't like. Each new opponent brings a detailed scouting
105 report that has plays that Co-Lin will likely see in the future
106 with clips culled from Young's study of film; and

107 WHEREAS, Coach Young hates to lose, but he really hates it
108 when his team doesn't play hard enough to win. There have been
109 times when teams that didn't play with enough effort found
110 themselves back on the court of Mullen Gymnasium, practicing after
111 a loss; and

112 WHEREAS, Coach Young is a humble servant and leader who
113 doesn't chase the spotlight or accolades despite being a member of
114 the NCJAA Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and a living legend
115 within his chosen field. He is a refreshing breath of some things
116 truly staying the same in a world that feels like it's often
117 changing for the worse; and



118 WHEREAS, he was given another commemorative ball that marked
119 the milestone win by Dr. Jane Hulon-Sims, the fourth different
120 president he has worked under at CLCC. That ball will go up on
121 the top shelf of his office along with the ones marking wins No.
122 900 and No. 800; and

123 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
124 landmark event in the career of a great Mississippi coach who has
125 brought honor to his college, his community and to the State of
126 Mississippi:

127 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
128 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Co-Lin
129 legendary Basketball Coach Gwyn Young on career win No. 1,000, and
130 we extend to Coach Young and his family our best wishes for future
131 success.

132 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
133 Coach Gwyn Young, forwarded to Co-Lin President Dr. Jane
134 Hulon-Sims and the Board of Trustees of Co-Lin Community College
135 and the Mississippi Community College Board, and made available to
136 the Capitol Press Corps.

