

By: Senator(s) Seymour, Barnett, Butler
(38th)

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 38

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE STONE COUNTY
2 HIGH SCHOOL "LADY CATS" SOCCER TEAM AND HEAD COACH CARISSA
3 HARRISON FOR WINNING THEIR FIRST MHSAA CLASS 4A GIRLS SOCCER STATE
4 CHAMPIONSHIP IN SCHOOL HISTORY.

5 WHEREAS, on February 5, 2022, the Stone County High School
6 "Lady Cats" Girls Soccer Team claimed its first MHSAA Class 4A
7 Soccer State Championship in school history; and

8 WHEREAS, for Stone High School teammates and coaches alike,
9 winning the Class 4A Girls Soccer State Championship Title was a
10 dream come true; and

11 WHEREAS, Head Coach Carissa Harrison had her heart set on
12 making school history before she ever stepped into her leadership
13 role at Stone County High School. "I have been playing
14 competitive soccer since I was 13 years old. Since then, I have
15 dreamed of going to a State Championship," Harrison said. "As a
16 coach, it is a dream come true." But the road to the State Title
17 is never easy, but rocky. Coaches had to navigate COVID-19 and
18 quarantines while playing the long game for the experience; and



19 WHEREAS, both boys and girls teams made a pact to battle the
20 biggest and best soccer schools on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to
21 prepare each team for district rivals. The 6A and 5A team
22 matchups started with difficulty, but Stone High began to defeated
23 even the larger teams. Harrison's husband, Patrick Harris, is the
24 head coach for the boys' team. Both "Tomcats" and "Lady Cats"
25 finished the season Division Champions; and

26 WHEREAS, before the girls began the State Championship game,
27 there was a clear difference in the preparation and maturity
28 between Stone High and New Albany. The extra preparation seemed
29 to work. Before halftime, Stone was up 2-0 over New Albany; and

30 WHEREAS, senior Morgan Pickering picked up the first goal.
31 Pickering was later named the game's Most Valuable Player for her
32 offensive strategy on the field; and

33 WHEREAS, in the second half, players regularly collided as
34 the teams amped up the energy. With 12 minutes left, Caroline
35 Batson scored off an assist from Mary Grace Batson. With less
36 than six minutes, "Lady Cat" Mary Grace Batson kicked a corner and
37 scored on an assist from herself. She arced her kick over a line
38 of New Albany defenders and scored. Not only did Stone win four
39 to nothing, but the "Lady Cats" also dominated in defense and
40 offense. Stone Goalie, Leah Capiola, only had to stop three
41 shots; and

42 WHEREAS, the Stone defensive players never let another clear
43 shot get past them. Assistant Coach Keith Kennedy said the



44 defensive line worked overtime. "Our backline consisted of Lexi
45 Conard, Torrance Rouchon, Arnesha Fairley and Aylesia Hartfield";
46 and

47 WHEREAS, in contrast, the "Lady Cats" racked up 28 shots.
48 Coach Harrison said the team's secret to success is the team's
49 family atmosphere. She hopes their win inspires other female
50 athletes to strive for their goals; and

51 WHEREAS, the 2022 Lady Cats Championship Roster is: Leah
52 Capiola, Aylesia Hartfield, Kendall Jones, Jordan Cooper, Lainee
53 Wilson, Aubrey Ladner, Nevaehlee Necaize, Briley Hines, Ava
54 Vetter, Laney Harrell, Carissa Hester, Caroline Batson, Cadence
55 Dickens, Jayla Powell, Jill Denham, Carey Williams, Baelyn Smith,
56 Alexis Conard, Priya Collins, Mary Grace Batson, Anijah Mackey,
57 Laila Bullen, Cela Strickland, Shelby Rader, MaLeah Smith and
58 Mackenzie Lee; Head Coach, Carissa Harrison and Assistant Coaches
59 Paul Macias and Tanner Nations; and

60 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this group
61 of student athletes whose first State Championship has brought
62 honor to their school, their community and to the State of
63 Mississippi:

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
65 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the Stone
66 County High School "Lady Cats" Soccer Team and Head Coach Carissa
67 Harrison for winning their first MHSAA Class 4A Girls Soccer State



68 Championship in school history, and extend to the players,
69 coaches, parents and sponsors our best wishes for future success.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
71 Coach Carissa Harrison for the team, forwarded to Stone County
72 Principal Adam Stone and the Stone County School Board and be made
73 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

