

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

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 73

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE BOONEVILLE
2 HIGH SCHOOL "LADY BLUE DEVILS" GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING
3 BACK-TO-BACK MHSAA 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND HEAD COACH MICHAEL
4 SMITH AS THE ONLY MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL COACH TO WIN
5 CONSECUTIVE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL.

6 WHEREAS, behind the play of 2023 Miss Basketball Saniyah Cook
7 and a dominant second quarter, the Booneville High School "Lady
8 Blue Devils" Girls Basketball Team raced past Forest 58-31 on
9 March 4, 2023, to claim the MHSAA Girls Class 3A State
10 Championship for the second consecutive season at the Mississippi
11 Coliseum; and

12 WHEREAS, it was Booneville's (30-3) fourth State title in
13 school history; and

14 WHEREAS, "I thought we had a really good game plan going in
15 and we knew they were going to press us," Booneville Coach Michael
16 Smith said. "But they could press us in two or three spots, but
17 not all five. We wanted to make sure Saniyah only had one or two
18 players guarding her, and that was the pressure release. That
19 took them out of what they were wanting to do." Coach Michael



20 Smith is the only high school coach in Mississippi history to win
21 consecutive State Championships in both girls and boys basketball;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the "Lady Blue Devils" jumped out to a 9-0 lead to
24 begin the game, but Forest went on a 6-2 run to end the opening
25 quarter to cut the Booneville lead to 11-6 at the end of the first
26 quarter. But just when the packed "Big House" crowd thought
27 Forest had settled down, the "Lady Blue Devils" went into another
28 gear. Forest scored the first basket of the second quarter 10
29 seconds into the period to cut the Booneville lead to 11-8.
30 Booneville proceeded to score the final 19 points of the quarter,
31 highlighted by back-to-back three-pointers from Ava Kathryn Smith,
32 to take a commanding 30-8 lead. In the second half, every time
33 Forest tried to cut into the Booneville lead, the "Lady Blue
34 Devils" had an answer. Their lead never dwindled below 20 points,
35 and Cook sealed the game with four consecutive free throws in the
36 fourth quarter to give them an insurmountable 51-26 lead; and

37 WHEREAS, Saniyah Cook had a game-high 20 points to earn MVP
38 honors for Booneville, while Ava Kathryn Smith added 19 points for
39 the "Lady Blue Devils"; and

40 WHEREAS, the 2022-2023 Booneville High School "Lady Blue
41 Devils" Girls Basketball Team Championship Roster is: Ava Kathryn
42 Smith, Madison Owens, Josie Dawson, Shaylea King, Sara Hatch,
43 Arlaina Rogers, Chloe Ruth, Hadley Hurt, Kellan Johnson, Hallie
44 Burns, Kylee Johnson, Emsley Murphy, Maddie Middleton, Olivia



45 Garrett, Kaylee Johnson, Allie Gillespie, Taylor Brooke White,
46 Saniyah Cook, Kaylee Wildmon, Makylah Pippins, Hana Hurt, Kymani
47 Smith, Kierra Slack, Raven McKinney and Jadyn Lindsey; Head Coach
48 Michael Smith; Assistant Coaches Kenny Paul Geno, Chip Johnson,
49 Cole Lauderdale, Micah Moment and Bryant Tyles; and

50 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize these
51 student athlete champions who have brought honor to their school,
52 their community and to the State of Mississippi:

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
54 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the
55 Booneville High School "Lady Blue Devils" Girls Basketball Team
56 for winning back-to-back MHSAA 3A State Championships and Head
57 Coach Michael Smith as the only Mississippi High School Basketball
58 Coach to win consecutive State Championships in both Boys and
59 Girls Basketball, and extend to the team, coaches, parents and
60 sponsors our best wishes for more consecutive victories.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
62 Coach Michael Smith and Booneville Principal Bo Sandlin for the
63 team, forwarded to the Booneville School District Board of
64 Trustees, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

