

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

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 74

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

6 WHEREAS, Booneville star Kendrick Simmons scored 24 points to
7 lead the "Blue Devils" to storm past Southeast Lauderdale 70-51 to
8 claim the MHSAA Boys Class 3A State Championship for a second
9 consecutive season at the Mississippi Coliseum on March 4, 2023;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, it was the "Blue Devils" (30-2) fourth State Title
12 in school history; and

13 WHEREAS, Michael Smith became the first Head Coach in
14 Mississippi history to win back-to-back boys and girls State
15 Championships; and

16 WHEREAS, "I couldn't do this without the coaches I work with.
17 Back-to-back on something that's never been done is just special,"
18 Coach Smith said; and



19 WHEREAS, Booneville jumped out to a 9-0 lead, but Southeast
20 Lauderdale responded with a 9-0 run to tie the game. Each team
21 kept trading baskets. The "Blue Devils" had an answer for each
22 and every time the "Tigers" cut into their lead. The "Blue
23 Devils" held a 30-23 lead at halftime. A 9-4 "Blue Devils" run to
24 begin the third quarter gave Booneville a 39-27 lead. Midway
25 through the fourth, Simmons hit a three-pointer with 3:02 left
26 gave Booneville a 60-45 lead and sealed the game; and

27 WHEREAS, Simmons' 24 points was the most by any player.
28 McGee added 11 points, while Dalton Jackson and Landon Brown
29 chipped in 10 points each for the "Blue Devils"; and

30 WHEREAS, the Booneville High School "Blue Devils" Boys
31 Basketball Team Roster: Dalton Jackson, Landon Brown, Kendrick
32 Simmons, Alec Nunley, James Dukes, Jekemry Bell, Rhett Smith,
33 Briley McKinney, Dicorean McGee, Noah Gillon, Lebyron Tynes,
34 Isaiah Jackson, Trenton Rocker, Elijah Dukes, Camryn Hampton,
35 Jayden Williams, Elijah Shumpert, Matthew Windham and Koley Floyd;
36 and Coach Michael Smith; and

37 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize these
38 student athletes who with their counterpart Girls Basketball Team
39 have brought honor to their school, their community and to the
40 State of Mississippi:

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
42 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the
43 Booneville High School "Blue Devils" Boys Basketball Team for



44 winning back-to-back MHSAA Class 3A State Championships and Head
45 Coach Michael Smith as the first Mississippi high school coach to
46 win consecutive State Championships in both boys and girls
47 basketball, and extend to the team, coaches, parents and sponsors
48 our best wishes for future consecutive victories.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
50 Head Coach Michael Smith and Booneville Principal Bo Sandlin,
51 forwarded to the Booneville School District Board of Trustees, and
52 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

