

By: Senator(s) Younger

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 101

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE COLUMBUS
2 CHRISTIAN ACADEMY "RAMS" GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM AND "COACH OF THE
3 YEAR" BILLY THOMAS FOR WINNING THE 2023 MAIS CLASS 2A STATE
4 CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, down as many as 11 points late in the fourth quarter
6 of its MAIS Class 2A semifinal against Delta Academy, a chance to
7 play for a State Championship was all but lost for the Columbus
8 Christian Academy Girls Basketball Team. Columbus Christian
9 Academy Head Coach and MAIS 2A "Coach of the Year" Billy Thomas
10 had to empty his bench, but in doing so, the "Rams" came alive.
11 Great bench play propelled CCA to tie the game up at the end of
12 regulation, and the "Rams" eventually won in overtime, moving on
13 to the MAIS Class 2A Title Game against West Memphis Christian
14 (Arkansas); and

15 WHEREAS, against all odds, the No. 3 seeded "Rams" (27-12)
16 heading into State Tournament play ran the gauntlet, winning a
17 State Title, which the team celebrated in front of a big crowd
18 inside CCA's main gym on February 21, 2023; and



19 WHEREAS, "Being a young team, going into the district
20 tournament, I was wondering if age was going to be a factor this
21 year. I'm extremely proud of these girls for not getting caught
22 up," Coach Thomas stated; and

23 WHEREAS, the State Championship Game against WMCS was close
24 throughout, but some help off the bench and some late clutch shots
25 gave the "Rams" a much-needed cushion as they tied the bow on an
26 incredible title run; and

27 WHEREAS, it was a great atmosphere and great production that
28 the school put on for the players as they walked up and down the
29 stands, high-fiving students, family and friends alike before
30 showing off their State Title trophy and banner to the onlooking
31 crowd. The ceremony concluded as players from the team cut down
32 the nets, each getting a small piece to represent a historic
33 season for the "Rams," one that saw them have to beat two No. 1
34 seeds and a No. 2 seed to hoist some hardware; and

35 WHEREAS, the 2023 "Rams" Championship Roster is: Madyson
36 Brock, Meagan Brock, Cassie Carter, Shienne Easterwood, Starr
37 Easterwood, Ada Farlow, Carmen Ferraez, Audrey Glover, Shelbe
38 Grissom, Lanie Jones, McKenzie Kain, Carrie Kinard, Julia Ladd,
39 Kaitlynn McCoy, Annabeth Thomas, Satavia Watkins, Faith Yeates and
40 Coach Billy Thomas; and

41 WHEREAS, the Class 2A MAIS Girls Basketball Team "Players of
42 the Year" include Columbus Christian Academy's Satavia Watkins and



43 Carrie Kinard. Coach Billy Thomas was named 2A MAIS "Coach of the
44 Year"; and

45 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize these
46 student athletes who have brought honor to their school, their
47 community and to the State of Mississippi:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
49 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the
50 Columbus Christian Academy "Rams" Girls Basketball Team and Head
51 Coach Billy Thomas for winning the 2023 MAIS Class 2A State
52 Championship and extend to the team, coaches, parents and sponsors
53 our best wishes for future success.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
55 Coach Billy Thomas and Columbus Christian Academy Head of School
56 Don Mercer for the team, forwarded to the Columbus Christian
57 Academy Board of Trustees and made available to the Capitol Press
58 Corps.

