

By: Representatives Lott, Barton, Burch

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 GEORGE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LADY REBELS FAST PITCH SOFTBALL TEAM AND
3 HEAD COACH KASEY MCCANN UPON WINNING THEIR FIRST EVER MISSISSIPPI
4 HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION CLASS 5A FAST PITCH SOFTBALL
5 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

6 WHEREAS, the 2023 George County High School Fast-Pitch
7 Softball Team clinched a well-deserved victory when they defeated
8 the Saltillo High School Fast-Pitch Softball Team to win their
9 first ever Mississippi High School Activities Association Class 5A
10 Fast-Pitch Softball State Championship; and

11 WHEREAS, striving to win with unparalleled motivation and
12 ardent determination, the Lady Rebels played their best games of
13 the season during the championship series, as their mental stamina
14 and athletic prowess never wavered from the moment they first
15 walked onto that red, dusty diamond until the last out was made;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the championship matchup ended as a thrilling 2-1
18 victory over Saltillo in Game 2 of the state championship series
19 held at the Southern Miss Softball Complex in Hattiesburg,



20 Mississippi, on May 18, 2023, and it forever etched this George
21 County team not only in the trophy case, but also in the history
22 books; and

23 WHEREAS, the Saltillo Lady Tigers struck first in the top of
24 the second inning, but George County escaped the jam with a 9-6
25 double play and then promptly answered back in the bottom of the
26 third with a run of their own, as Jordyn Bradley scored on a
27 passed ball following a lead-off triple; and

28 WHEREAS, the 1-1 score would remain until the bottom of the
29 sixth, when Natalie Jones started a two-out rally with a double
30 all the way to the left field wall, and Saltillo then made the
31 curious decision to walk three-hole hitter Ashton Fairley, which
32 sent Sidnee Beech to the plate for the biggest at-bat of her life;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, while the fans of both teams watched with bated
35 breath, the junior came through with an opposite field RBI single
36 into right field, sending Jones to the dish for a 2-1 lead; and

37 WHEREAS, despite Addison Davis' complete dominance through
38 six innings, the Lady Rebels turned to their eighth grade ace
39 Peyton Collins in the top of the seventh inning; and

40 WHEREAS, with one out and runners on first and second, Beech
41 fired a snap throw over to third base, and later applied the tag
42 in a rundown for the second out of the inning, before firing over
43 to Bradley to apply what the Lady Rebels thought was the final out
44 at second base; and



45 WHEREAS, with the dogpile already underway, the umpire
46 exclaimed he had called for obstruction at second base, so the
47 game deferred back to a two-strike count with two outs, but the
48 Lady Rebels did not let this call distract from their dreams, so
49 Collins stepped back up to the pitcher's mound and put the
50 finishing touches on George County's state championship game
51 victory with a swinging strikeout, and naturally, another dogpile
52 promptly ensued, and Collins was later named series MVP; and

53 WHEREAS, the Lady Rebels team statistics were impressive, but
54 the key to this team's consistent success has been the constant
55 selfless atmosphere, the true love they each possess for the game,
56 and the year-round hard work by each and every talented and
57 distinguished player; and

58 WHEREAS, the George County High School Lady Rebels Fast-Pitch
59 Softball Team is comprised of the following athletes: Ciera
60 Parker, Aryana Dixon, Gracie Magee, Irina Sanford, Blakely Slay,
61 Skylar Wood, Lexi Eubanks, Kelsey McCardle, Hadleigh Tatum, Ashton
62 Fairley, Zoe Blankenship, Jordyn Bradley, Hannah Pitts, Sidnee
63 Beech, Alexis O'neal, Skyler Dixon, Mari Torres, Kyla Fairley,
64 Gabby Cochran, Braylee Bishop, Natalie Jones, Kyleigh Howell,
65 Addison Davis, Carlaysha Boulton, Mary Jo Tatum, Peyton Collins
66 and manager, Carys Cochran; and

67 WHEREAS, Head Coach Kasey McCann and Assistant Coaches Anna
68 Grace Cooley, Bruce Thornton and Jay Smith have not only superbly



69 coached and inspired the Lady Rebels but also broadened the team's
70 knowledge of the game and refined their skills in execution; and

71 WHEREAS, in their tireless dedication, the Lady Rebels have
72 developed a winning, cooperative spirit and a high degree of
73 sportsmanship, and their activities and attitudes reflect great
74 credit upon the individual players and their coaches, bringing
75 honor to George County High School; and

76 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
77 recognize and commend the superb accomplishments of Mississippi
78 student-athletes, especially those such as the George County High
79 School Lady Rebels Fast-Pitch Softball Team, whose excellence on
80 the field and in the classroom bring honor to their school, their
81 community and to the State of Mississippi:

82 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
83 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
84 commend and congratulate the George County High School Lady Rebels
85 Fast-Pitch Softball Team and Head Coach Kasey McCann upon winning
86 their first ever Mississippi High School Activities Association
87 Class 5A Fast-Pitch Softball State Championship and extend best
88 wishes to the team and coaches for continued success in all their
89 future endeavors.

90 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
91 furnished to Head Coach Kasey McCann and to the members of the
92 Capitol Press Corps.

