

By: Representative McGee

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 23

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MISS VIVIAN
2 O'NEAL, MISS MISSISSIPPI 2023, UPON WINNING THE COVETED CROWN, AND
3 EXPRESSING BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL HER FUTURE
4 ENDEAVORS.

5 WHEREAS, Miss Vivian O'Neal, a native of Hattiesburg,
6 Mississippi, was crowned with a sparkling tiara and presented a
7 beautiful bouquet of roses, becoming Miss Mississippi 2023, at the
8 90th Miss Mississippi competition in Vicksburg, Mississippi; and

9 WHEREAS, Miss O'Neal graduated with a bachelor's degree in
10 public relations and a master of education degree in higher
11 education administration from the University of Southern
12 Mississippi, where she works as the Coordinator of Recruitment and
13 Strategic Communication for the Honors College; and

14 WHEREAS, formerly Miss Pine Belt, Miss O'Neal was awarded the
15 crown and title following a high-ranking score from the judges
16 during the preliminary rounds, and after being named the winner of
17 the Quality of Life portion of the competition, which is given to
18 the competitor that best demonstrates leadership while serving her



19 community, with Miss O'Neal receiving the scholarship funding for
20 her work in the nonprofit organization CapABLE; and

21 WHEREAS, founded in 2019, CapABLE gives educators across the
22 state access to disability inclusion resources aimed at helping
23 bridge the gap between students with disabilities and students
24 without; and

25 WHEREAS, since then, Miss O'Neal has expanded the
26 organization to reach over 20,000 students located in Mississippi,
27 Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, and North Carolina, and its first
28 children's book, "Josiah's Big Day" was authored by Miss O'Neal
29 and has sold over 200 copies; and

30 WHEREAS, outstandingly, Miss O'Neal won the competition in a
31 sparkling red evening gown with all-over beading for evening wear,
32 and performed a high-energy dance routine to "I Wanna Dance with
33 Somebody" by Whitney Houston in the talent portion; and

34 WHEREAS, during her time competing at Miss America, Miss
35 O'Neal was one of the three winners of Miss America's Preliminary
36 Fitness Category, along with Miss Maryland and Miss Tennessee; and

37 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
38 recognize and honor extraordinary Mississippians such as Miss
39 O'Neal, a young woman who exudes poise, class and a tender heart,
40 and serves as an asset and wonderful role model to everyone
41 throughout the great Magnolia State and the nation, with her
42 attitude, determination and professionalism that bring honor to
43 the Hattiesburg community and the State of Mississippi:



44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
45 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
46 commend and congratulate Miss Vivian O'Neal, Miss Mississippi
47 2023, upon winning the coveted crown and express best wishes for
48 continued success in all her future endeavors.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
50 furnished to Miss Vivian O'Neal, in acknowledgment of her
51 accomplishment as Miss Mississippi 2023, and to the members of the
52 Capitol Press Corps.

