

By: Representative Young

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 72

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE 2023-2024
2 MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH
3 RONALD NORMAN UPON WINNING THE MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
4 ASSOCIATION CLASS 7A STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, the Meridian High School Wildcats Boys Basketball
6 Team and Head Coach Ronald Norman reign supreme after finishing
7 the 2023-2024 season with an impressive 24-9 record, and capturing
8 the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) Class
9 7A State Basketball Championship for the first time after the new
10 classification was added at the start of the 2023-2024 school
11 year; and

12 WHEREAS, throughout their season, the Wildcats played with
13 clear eyes, full hearts and unimaginable amounts of fortitude, and
14 during the state championship game, their mental stamina and
15 athletic prowess never wavered from the moment they first hustled
16 onto the court until the final buzzer buzzed, as they outlasted,
17 outplayed and ultimately overpowered Clinton High School in a
18 54-50 win; and



19 WHEREAS, Coach Norman said there were many who doubted
20 whether the Wildcats could reach the Class 7A title game, let
21 alone win it all, but he credits the victory to the work of his
22 players, claiming he now has 18 roses on the roster that all grew
23 from the concrete; and

24 WHEREAS, during the championship matchup, Meridian led during
25 every minute of the game until a jump shot by Clinton's Trey
26 Alexander gave the Arrows a 43-42 advantage; however, there was
27 one player that kept the team level-headed in the final minutes,
28 Javion Yarbrough; and

29 WHEREAS, Yarbrough, who scored 28 points and won game MVP,
30 told his teammates to not stress during the championship game when
31 they had already dealt with deficits much worse during the season,
32 so Meridian again relied on its experience, calmed down, and
33 executed their plays perfectly in order to win; and

34 WHEREAS, to claim this illustrious victory, the Wildcats
35 relied on their swift feet, accurate shooting and strategic
36 defensive moves to stop the opposing offense and outmaneuver their
37 defense, which ultimately allowed them to bring the coveted Gold
38 Ball Trophy back to the Meridian High School trophy case; and

39 WHEREAS, the Wildcats have been superbly coached and inspired
40 by Head Coach Ronald Norman, who has broadened the players'
41 knowledge of the game and refined their skills in execution, and
42 he continues to build upon the legacy of superior play and true



43 sportsmanship forged by the tenacious and undaunted spirit of each
44 team member; and

45 WHEREAS, the members of this team will carry the
46 unforgettable memories they made along their way to championship
47 status, whether it be the long hours in the weight room or the
48 grueling practices, as well as the lessons of hard work,
49 dedication and perseverance learned during this amazing season,
50 throughout their lives as they are constantly flooded with the
51 feeling of greatness that accompanies being a champion; and

52 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
53 recognize and commend excellence, especially that displayed by the
54 Meridian High School Boys Basketball Team, and it is with great
55 pride that we congratulate this elite group of student-athletes
56 and Head Coach Ronald Norman, who have brought honor to Meridian
57 High School and to the great State of Mississippi:

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
59 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
60 commend and congratulate the 2023-2024 Meridian High School
61 Wildcats Boys Basketball Team and Head Coach Ronald Norman upon
62 winning the Mississippi High School Activities Association Class
63 7A State Basketball Championship, and extend best wishes to the
64 team and coaches for continued success in all their future
65 endeavors.



66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
67 furnished to Head Coach Ronald Norman and to the members of the
68 Capitol Press Corps.

