

By: Representative Calvert

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 97

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE WEST
 2 LAUDERDALE HIGH SCHOOL LADY KNIGHTS FAST-PITCH SOFTBALL TEAM AND
 3 HEAD COACH JAKE LOPER UPON WINNING THEIR FIRST 2023 MISSISSIPPI
 4 HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION CLASS 4A FAST-PITCH SOFTBALL
 5 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

6 WHEREAS, the 2023 West Lauderdale High School Lady Knights
 7 Fast-pitch Softball Team clinched a well-deserved victory when
 8 they defeated North Pike to win the Mississippi High School
 9 Activities Association Class 4A Fast-pitch Softball State
 10 Championship, their first in school history; and

11 WHEREAS, the Lady Knights softball team, who finished their
 12 season with an overall 28-9 record, a district record of 8-2 and a
 13 playoff record of 10-1, wielded its exceptionally powerful bats
 14 and remarkable defensive strategy to pierce through the state
 15 championship dreams of each of their opponents in the state
 16 playoffs; and

17 WHEREAS, striving to win with unparalleled motivation and
 18 ardent determination, the Lady Knights, who were also the North
 19 State Champions, played their best games of the season during the



20 championship series, as their mental stamina and athletic prowess
21 never wavered from the moment they first walked onto that red,
22 dusty diamond until the last out was made; and

23 WHEREAS, pitcher Mabry Eason hurled a six-inning, no-hitter
24 and slammed a three-run homer to push West Lauderdale over the top
25 in an 11-0 win over North Pike to clinch the state championship at
26 the University of Southern Mississippi Softball Complex; and

27 WHEREAS, the Lady Knights did not waste any time on offense
28 during the championship game, as they plated four runs in the
29 first inning, and three of those came on Eason's home run, a
30 no-doubter over the centerfield fence on a 1-and-1 fastball, and
31 they picked up four more runs in the third, one in the fourth and
32 two more in the sixth; and

33 WHEREAS, Mabry Eason finished the day 3-for-3 with four RBIs,
34 Class 4A Miss Softball, Breelyn Cain, was 2-for-2 with two RBIs
35 and a walk, and catcher, Raegan Brady, doubled and drove in two
36 runs; and

37 WHEREAS, the Lady Knights team statistics were impressive,
38 but the key to this team's consistent success has been the
39 constant selfless atmosphere, the true love they each possess for
40 the game, and the year-round hard work by each and every talented
41 and distinguished player; and

42 WHEREAS, the West Lauderdale High School Lady Knights
43 Fast-pitch Softball Team is comprised of the following athletes:
44 Ryleigh Turbville, Mallory Claire Robinson, Raegan Brady, Ava



45 Wilkerson, McKinley Maxwell, Brooke Baltzell, Annisten Snider,
46 Addison Cornish, Lily Kaye Joiner, Breelyn Cain, Caroline Walker,
47 Jena Shirley, Brooklee Harbour, Sumayah Cole, Kamryn Willoughby,
48 Lexie Lewis, Courtney Lewis, Mabry Eason, Carsyn Mott, Emma
49 McNeill and Laci Boswell; and

50 WHEREAS, Head Coach Jake Loper has not only superbly coached
51 and inspired the Lady Knights but also broadened the team's
52 knowledge of the game and refined their skills in execution; and

53 WHEREAS, in their tireless dedication, the Lady Knights have
54 developed a winning, cooperative spirit and a high degree of
55 sportsmanship, and their activities and attitudes reflect great
56 credit upon the individual players and their coaches, bringing
57 honor to West Lauderdale High School and the State of Mississippi;
58 and

59 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
60 recognize and commend the superb accomplishments of Mississippi
61 student-athletes, especially those such as the West Lauderdale
62 High School Lady Knights Fast-pitch Softball Team, whose
63 excellence on the field and in the classroom bring honor to their
64 school, their community and to the State of Mississippi:

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
66 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
67 commend and congratulate the West Lauderdale High School Lady
68 Knights Fast-pitch Softball Team and Head Coach Jake Loper upon
69 winning their first 2023 Mississippi High School Activities



70 Association Class 4A Fast-pitch Softball State Championship and
71 extend best wishes to the team and coaches for continued success
72 in all their future endeavors.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
74 furnished to Head Coach Jake Loper and to the members of the
75 Capitol Press Corps.

