

By: Senator(s) Blount, Frazier, Kirby,
McCaughn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 35

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE MILLSAPS
2 "MAJORS" WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH JUSTIN LEBLANC FOR
3 WINNING ITS FIRST-EVER CONFERENCE SAA TOURNAMENT TITLE AND ITS
4 THIRD-EVER NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCE.

5 WHEREAS, the Hangar Dome was boisterous and electric, helping
6 power the Millsaps "Majors" Women's Basketball Team past Centre
7 College, 68-63 in the 2024 Southern Athletic Association (SAA)
8 Women's Basketball Championship on February 25, 2024. The result
9 was the first conference postseason title for the "Majors" and
10 advanced the team into its third-ever NCAA Tournament; and

11 WHEREAS, No. 1 seed Millsaps (24-4, 12-2 SAA) was led by SAA
12 Women's Basketball Player of the Year and MVP Haley Franklin's 35
13 points, which matched a career high. Franklin added nine rebounds
14 and two assists on 10-of-20 shooting from the floor and 15-of-21
15 from the free-throw line. The Baton Rouge, Louisiana, athlete
16 also became the 12th player in program history to surpass 1,000
17 career points; and



18 WHEREAS, Sophomore Elyse Warren, along with Haley Franklin,
19 was selected to the SAA All-Tournament Team. Warren netted eight
20 points, 11 rebounds and one steal; and

21 WHEREAS, making its fifth appearance in the SAA Title Game,
22 the "Majors" advanced to the NCAA Division III Women's Basketball
23 Tournament for the third time in school history (1994-1995,
24 1995-1996); and

25 WHEREAS, the title contest was a thrilling matchup with eight
26 ties and 11 lead changes. The largest lead of the first quarter
27 was three points as Centre held a 13-11 advantage through 10
28 minutes of play. Franklin would race coast-to-coast in under five
29 seconds to beat the halftime buzzer with what proved to be a
30 crucial driving layup. The "Colonels" held a narrow 29-27 margin
31 at halftime. The visitors earned a six-point lead with a trey
32 four minutes into the second half, but the "Majors" stormed back.
33 Millsaps utilized back-to-back Helena Roe and Tia Anderson
34 3-pointers to help finish the third quarter on a 19-8 run and hold
35 a 50-45 advantage. The "Majors" appeared to run away with the
36 game after Franklin hit a jump shot and free throw as Millsaps
37 moved ahead, 55-46 with 7:50 to play. However, Centre pulled
38 within two points with 1:39 on the clock as the pressure mounted.
39 Franklin then sank 6-of-8 free throws down the stretch to keep the
40 "Colonels" down for good. Centre hit a three-pointer, but it was
41 too little, too late as the "Majors" advanced with an automatic



42 berth to the NCAA Tournament following a 68-63 thrilling decision;
43 and

44 WHEREAS, the 2024 Millsaps "Majors" Women's Basketball
45 Tournament Championship Team roster is: Bailey Johnson, Garin
46 Freeman, Haley Franklin, Maddy Maw, Emily Adams, Kayla Ngo, Nya
47 Miller, Helena Roe, Maddie Howell, Mya Richardson, Elyse Warren,
48 Kourtney Irons, Whitney Novak, Tia Anderson, Taylor Frank and
49 Rachel Pflum; and Head Coach Justin LeBlanc and Assistant Coach
50 Eric Vaughn; and

51 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this group
52 of university athletes who have brought honor to their college,
53 their community and to the State of Mississippi:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
55 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the
56 Millsaps "Majors" Women's Basketball Team and Head Coach Justin
57 LeBlanc for winning its first-ever Conference SAA Tournament Title
58 and its third-ever NCAA Tournament appearance, and extend to the
59 players, coaches, students, faculty and parents our best wishes
60 for future postseason success.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
62 Head Coach Justin LeBlanc for the team, forwarded to Millsaps
63 President Frank Neville and the Board of Trustees, and made
64 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

