

By: Senator(s) Kirby, Harkins, Blount,  
Michel, Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 45

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE JACKSON PREP  
2 "PATRIOTS" BOYS SOCCER TEAM AND HEAD COACH JON MARCUS DUNCAN FOR  
3 WINNING THE 2024 MAIS DIVISION I CLASS 6A STATE SOCCER  
4 CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, even though the score was tied 0-0 through most of  
6 the first half, the outcome never seemed in doubt; and

7 WHEREAS, the Jackson Prep "Patriots" Boys won the MAIS  
8 Division I Class 6A State Soccer Championship in dominating  
9 fashion over the Presbyterian Christian School (PCS) "Bobcats" on  
10 February 15, 2024, shutting out the visitors 3-0; and

11 WHEREAS, Prep applied the pressure from start to finish,  
12 using tremendous footwork and passing skills to keep the ball on  
13 the "Bobcats'" end of the field and PCS defenders on edge. With  
14 10 minutes to play before the break, the "Patriots'" Austin Craft  
15 nailed a penalty kick past the "Bobcats'" goalkeeper, and fans  
16 seemed to hear the nail driving through the coffin; and

17 WHEREAS, "Austin is a senior, he is our goal-scorer, and  
18 everything goes through him," Prep Coach Jon Marcus Duncan said  
19 afterward. "He's had an unbelievable career. All of these



20 seniors, they're big brothers to these younger guys. What a  
21 finish for them"; and

22 WHEREAS, Austin Craft sailed his penalty kick high and left  
23 into the net just outside of PCS's reach, and the excitement along  
24 the Prep sideline and in the stands was huge; and

25 WHEREAS, the "Patriots," who played with ease on offense and  
26 with serious intent on defense, earned more breathing room with  
27 16:10 to play when senior Warner Russ put a short kick past the  
28 overworked PCS. Holding a 2-0 lead with most of the second half  
29 remaining, the celebration was officially on. "This was a  
30 complete team effort," Coach Duncan said. "We played great in the  
31 back, I thought we controlled the middle, and our guys up front  
32 worked so hard to create some goals"; and

33 WHEREAS, Sophomore Jetson Hollingsworth put the icing on the  
34 cake with a goal from the right corner with 2:00 left, giving  
35 Coach Duncan his 29th career State Soccer Title at Prep, 15 with  
36 the boys' teams and 14 with the "Lady Patriots"; and

37 WHEREAS, the 2023-2024 Jackson Prep "Patriots" Boys Soccer  
38 Championship Team roster is: Eli Adams, Major Quin, Mason McCain,  
39 Elliot Davis, Matthew Merhle, Thomas Hewitt Oswald, Wilson Berry,  
40 Sam Sherman, Rhodes Morgan, Christopher Owen, Cole Cress, Thomas  
41 Werne, Ty Davidson, Clayton Upchurch, Walker Dreher, Warner Russ,  
42 Austin Craft, Cooper McCearley, Luke Smith, Worth McGehee, Caleb  
43 Gutierrez, Jetson Hollingsworth and Robert Fletcher; and Coach Jon  
44 Marcus Duncan; and



45           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this group  
46 of student athletes who have brought honor to their school, their  
47 community and to the State of Mississippi:

48           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
49 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the  
50 Jackson Prep "Patriots" Boys Soccer Team and Head Coach Jon Marcus  
51 Duncan for winning the 2024 MAIS Division I Class 6A State Soccer  
52 Championship, and extend to the team, coaches, parents and  
53 sponsors our best wishes for future success.

54           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
55 Head Coach Jon Marcus Duncan and Jackson Prep Headmaster Lawrence  
56 Coco for the team, forwarded to the Jackson Prep Board of  
57 Trustees, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

