

By: Senator(s) Rhodes, Kirby, Harkins,  
McCaughn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 56

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE EAST RANKIN  
2 ACADEMY "LADY PATRIOTS" GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM AND COACH DAVID  
3 HOPPER FOR WINNING THEIR THIRD CONSECUTIVE MAIS CLASS 5A STATE  
4 CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, we join the students, faculty and parents of East  
6 Rankin Academy in celebrating the third consecutive State  
7 Championship by the "Lady Patriots" Girls Cross Country Team; and

8 WHEREAS, the East Rankin Academy (ERA) Patriot Cross Country  
9 Team concluded their 2023 regular season on Monday, October 23rd.  
10 The "Lady Patriots," entering the season as the No. 1 ranked team  
11 in the state, defended their MAIS 5A State Championship for a  
12 third consecutive year. The varsity girls' team, led by junior,  
13 Audrey Mayatte, defeated runner-up, Simpson Academy by two points.  
14 The scoring five "Lady Patriots" included Audrey Mayatte; eighth  
15 grader, Emma Raines; sixth grader, Jewel Baker; sophomore, Jensen  
16 Baker; and sophomore, Emily Williams; and

17 WHEREAS, the 2023 season kicked off with the "Lady Patriots"  
18 Varsity Cross Country Team winning the season opener at the  
19 Simpson Academy Early Bird. This success would set the stage for



20 the "Lady Patriots'" winning seven of their ten season matchups,  
21 including the Park Place Invitational, the Jackson Victors  
22 Kickoff, the Forerunners Night Run, the MRA Invitational and the  
23 Clinton Arrow Invitational; and

24 WHEREAS, as finalists in the top ten of the varsity 5K races,  
25 three "Lady Patriots" were named to the MAIS 5A All-State Team to  
26 include sophomore, Audrey Mayatte; eighth grader, Emma Raines; and  
27 sixth grader, Jewel Baker; and

28 WHEREAS, the 2023 ERA Team, coached by Coach David Hopper,  
29 concluded the season with the varsity "Lady Patriots" ranked First  
30 in MAIS 5A and Second in the MAIS overall; and

31 WHEREAS, the East Rankin Academy "Lady Patriots" Girls Cross  
32 Country Championship Team Roster: Jewel Baker, Chandler Hunt,  
33 Haley Headrick, Kate Bryant, Emma Raines, Leah Collipp, Emily  
34 Williams, Jensen Baker, Arin Hawk, Savannah Smithers, Audrey  
35 Mayatte, Rachel Smith, Lydia Collipp, Audrey Hawk, Marlee Rakinic,  
36 Kylee Holifield, Katie Simpson, Lane Riemann, Addison Vowell, Abby  
37 Raines and Katie Lee Tadlock; and Coach David Hopper; and

38 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize these  
39 student athletes who have brought honor to their school, their  
40 community and to the State of Mississippi:

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
42 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the East  
43 Rankin Academy "Lady Patriots" Girls Cross Country Team and Coach  
44 David Hopper for winning their third consecutive MAIS Class 5A



45 State Championship, and extend the best wishes of the Mississippi  
46 Senate to the team, coaches, parents and sponsors for future  
47 success.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
49 Coach David Hopper and East Rankin Academy Head of School Robyn  
50 Winstead for the team, forwarded to the East Rankin Academy Board  
51 of Trustees, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

