

By: Senator(s) Rhodes, Kirby, Harkins

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 79

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE 2023-2024  
2 FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL LADY EAGLES SOCCER TEAM AND HEAD COACH BILL  
3 HOOD UPON WINNING THE MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES  
4 ASSOCIATION CLASS 5A GIRLS STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, the Florence High School Lady Eagles Soccer Team  
6 finished the 2023-2024 season with their second state title in  
7 three years and seventh overall when they reigned victorious at  
8 the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) Class  
9 5A Girls State Soccer Championship; and

10 WHEREAS, behind a strong, second-half offensive attack, the  
11 Lady Eagles rallied past Lafayette 3-1 to claim their latest  
12 Golden Ball Trophy on a cold, windy Saturday afternoon at  
13 Germantown's Maverick Stadium; and

14 WHEREAS, similar to the agile, ferocious raptors for which  
15 they are named, the Lady Eagles Soccer Team wielded its  
16 exceptional power and strength to pierce through the state  
17 championship dreams of each of their opponents in the State  
18 Playoffs; and



19           WHEREAS, playing with clear eyes, full hearts and  
20 unimagivable amounts of strength, the Lady Eagles Soccer Team  
21 outlasted, outplayed and ultimately overpowered the Lafayette High  
22 School Lady Commodores; and

23           WHEREAS, the championship game was a tale of two halves, as  
24 Lafayette (20-6) struck first in the 29th minute as Lillie Grace  
25 McCutchen's shot just went past the goal line to give the Lady  
26 Commodores a 1-0 lead; and

27           WHEREAS, the Lady Eagles (20-4-1) have several young players  
28 on the team, so they regrouped and refocused during halftime, and  
29 came into the second half like a different team, as they tied the  
30 game at 1-1 five minutes into the second half when Kamryn Frazier  
31 found the net on a rebound off a free kick that went off the top  
32 cross bar; and

33           WHEREAS, five minutes later, Emma Marchant scored a shot that  
34 went into the near corner of the net to give the Lady Eagles a 2-1  
35 lead, and after the game, Marchant was named the game's "Most  
36 Valuable Player"; and

37           WHEREAS, the score stayed the same until the 74th minute mark  
38 when eighth-grader Kadie Carroll stole a pass at the top of the  
39 18-yard box and the shot went just over the Lafayette goalkeeper's  
40 hands and into the back of the net to give Florence a 3-1 lead and  
41 seal the game; and

42           WHEREAS, throughout their season of play, the Florence High  
43 School Girls Soccer Team was faced off with some of the state's



44 best contenders on the pitch, but persevered to make their  
45 presence and talent known; and

46 WHEREAS, the 2023-2024 Lady Eagles team statistics were  
47 impressive, and there were outstanding headers, strikes, penalty  
48 kicks and goals by individual players, but the key to this team's  
49 consistent success has been the constant team atmosphere and  
50 year-round hard work; and

51 WHEREAS, the Lady Eagles have been superbly coached and  
52 inspired by Head Coach Bill Hood, who has broadened the Lady  
53 Eagles' knowledge of the game and refined their skills in  
54 execution; and

55 WHEREAS, Coach Hood continues to build upon the legacy of  
56 superior play and true sportsmanship forged by the tenacious and  
57 undaunted spirit of each team member, as evidenced in their  
58 ability to produce high-caliber players and plays and the team's  
59 successful season; and

60 WHEREAS, the 2023-2024 Florence High School Lady Eagles  
61 Championship Soccer Team Roster: Kylie Freemyer, Kylie Reynolds,  
62 Addison Grantham, Kailee Lilley, Kadie Carroll, Regina Guzman,  
63 Mallory Jackson, Brooke Bridges, Kylee Cloer, Ella Sanford, Emma  
64 Marchant, Rylee Raymond, Raeleigh Statham, Sydney O'Hair, Lilly  
65 Banks, Kendal Patterson, Caroline Sanford, Mary Taylor, Wendy  
66 Manchame, Kamryn Frazier, Jojo Quick and Mary Grace Tomlinson;  
67 Head Coach Bill Hood and Assistant Coach Joshua Cavanaugh; and



68           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize and commend  
69 the accomplishments of these exceptional Mississippi  
70 student-athletes, whose excellence on the field and in the  
71 classroom brings honor to their school, their community and the  
72 State of Mississippi:

73           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
74 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the  
75 2023-2024 Florence High School Lady Eagles Soccer Team and Head  
76 Coach Bill Hood upon winning the Mississippi High School  
77 Activities Association Class 5A Girls State Soccer Championship  
78 and extend best wishes to the team and coaches for continued  
79 success in all their future athletic and academic endeavors.

80           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
81 Head Coach Bill Hood and Florence High School Principal Keith  
82 Reed, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

