

By: Senator(s) Blackmon, Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 81

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE CANTON HIGH
2 SCHOOL "TIGERS" BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH B.J. TOWNSEND
3 FOR THEIR THRILLING VICTORY IN THE MHSAA CLASS 5A STATE
4 CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, before the game started, hundreds of fans were still
6 trying to make their way into the Mississippi Coliseum while seats
7 filled up in seconds. One of the most anticipated MHSAA state
8 tournament basketball games delivered excitement from start to
9 finish. Raucous noise from around 8,500 fans filled the arena
10 with every goal; and

11 WHEREAS, the Canton High School "Tigers" Boys Basketball Team
12 (26-4) used the energy from the crowd to swing a 58-40 win over
13 rival Yazoo City (28-6) in the MHSAA Class 5A State Championship
14 Game on March 2, 2024, to claim its first Boys Title since 1997;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Jamarion Fleming highlighted the reason why he was a
17 *Clarion-Ledger* Dandy Dozen selection and a 2024 Class 5A MHSAA Mr.
18 Basketball winner. Relentless pressure down low, producing 25
19 points and six rebounds was plenty for Canton; and



20 WHEREAS, "Fleming worked for tonight. He put in the work,
21 and he showed up on the biggest night in his life as of right
22 now," Canton Coach B.J. Townsend said. "He still has a lot more
23 basketball to go, but as of today, all his hard work paid off."
24 Coach Townsend joined in with the crowd's celebrations off steals,
25 dunks, or any of the points Canton scored. "The energy from the
26 crowd and then seeing my guys love to play the game and love to
27 play as hard as they played. Those are the things that get me
28 going," he exclaimed. An adoring crowd that cheered the boys on
29 was only fitting for the "Tigers" to deliver on Mississippi high
30 school basketball's biggest stage; and

31 WHEREAS, the 2023-2024 Canton High School "Tigers" Boys
32 Basketball Team Class 5A Championship Roster: Jamarion Fleming,
33 Armani Watson, DeAndre Lewis, Jayden Cration, Jaylon Hollins,
34 Jadarious Esco, Cesar Rodriguez, Zakirius Gilkey, Joshua Brown,
35 Braylen Reaves, Cameron Warren, T.J. Hoskin and Jaylon Ross; Head
36 Coach B.J. Townsend; Assistant Coaches LaPrecious Thompson, Sebron
37 Carter, Horatio Jackson, Rodney Harris and Christian Howard; and
38 Managers Jordan Ross and Isaac Hamblin; and

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

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
43 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the Canton
44 High School "Tigers" Boys Basketball Team and Head Coach B.J.



45 Townsend for their thrilling victory in the MHSAA Class 5A State
46 Championship, and extend our best wishes to the team, coaches,
47 parents and sponsors for future success.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
49 Head Coach B.J. Townsend and Canton Principal Pamela Self, PhD,
50 for the team, forwarded to the Canton School Board, and made
51 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

