

By: Senator(s) McLendon

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 120

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE HERNANDO HIGH
2 SCHOOL "TIGERS" MARCHING BAND AND DIRECTORS LEN KILLOUGH AND DJ
3 FITZGERALD FOR CONSECUTIVE MHSAA 7A MARCHING CHAMPIONSHIPS.

4 WHEREAS, we join the students, faculty, parents and citizens
5 of Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi, in recognizing the
6 Hernando High School "Tigers" Marching Band for winning the 2023
7 Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) Class 7A
8 Marching Band Championship, and for their history of band
9 excellence; and

10 WHEREAS, the Hernando High School Band has an impressive
11 record of achievements in marching band, including the following:

12 • Consecutive MHSAA Sweepstakes Awards since the inception
13 of the award;

14 • Grand Champion at the 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019 and 2023
15 MHSAA 7A Marching Band Championships;

16 • Silver Medalists at the 2021 MHSAA 6A Marching
17 Championships;



- 18 • Overall 2nd Place at the 2023 BOA Memphis Regional Class
19 2A;
- 20 • Grand Champion at the 2023 MHSAA 7A Marching Band
21 Championships;
- 22 • Finalist at the 2022 BOA St. Louis Super Regional;
- 23 • Silver Medalist at the 2022 MHSAA 6A Marching
24 Championships;
- 25 • Class 2A Champion at the 2022 BOA Jacksonville Regional;
- 26 • Class 2A Champion at the 2023 BOA Memphis Regional;
- 27 • The band has participated in parades such as the Cherry
28 Blossom Parade in Washington, D.C., the Fiesta Flambeau Parade in
29 San Antonio, Texas, and the NATO Parade of Nations in Norfolk,
30 Virginia;
- 31 • They have been honored by the Mississippi State Senate and
32 the City of Hernando on multiple occasions; and

33 WHEREAS, the Hernando High School Band serves as the source
34 of instrumental music instruction for students in grades 6-12 at
35 Hernando Middle School and Hernando High School in Hernando,
36 Mississippi; and

37 WHEREAS, Len Killough is currently in his eleventh year as
38 Director of Bands at Hernando High School. Under his direction,
39 the Hernando Band has been named a four-time Grand Champion at the
40 Mississippi High School Activities Association 6A State Marching
41 Band Championship and is a multiple class champion and finalist at
42 Bands of America Regional and Super Regional Events. Mr. Killough



43 has led the band to consecutive Sweepstakes Awards from the
44 Mississippi High School Activities Association, recognizing
45 Superior Ratings from every judge in every caption to the entire
46 scholastic year; and

47 WHEREAS, DJ Fitzgerald is in his first year with the Hernando
48 Band program and serves as Marching Band Director. He holds a
49 Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Mississippi,
50 where he was a member of the Pride of the South Marching Band, the
51 University Wind Ensemble, the Mississippians Jazz Ensemble and the
52 Ole Miss Trombone Ensemble. During the summer months, Mr.
53 Fitzgerald serves as the Visual Caption Head of Southwind Drum and
54 Bugle Corps in Mobile, Alabama; and

55 WHEREAS, students at Hernando High School are given many
56 opportunities to develop and use their musical talents, learn
57 organizational skills, and develop lasting peer relationships
58 spanning all grades. In addition, they quickly develop a strong
59 understanding of individual responsibility, discipline and
60 accountability to contribute to the overall success of the entire
61 band. These life skills will serve them well in everything they
62 attempt in the future; and

63 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we acknowledge the
64 musical history of this outstanding group of students who have
65 again brought honor to their school, their community and to the
66 State of Mississippi:



67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
68 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the
69 Hernando High School "Tigers" Marching Band and Directors Len
70 Killough and DJ Fitzgerald for consecutive MHSAA 7A Marching
71 Championships and extend to the band members, directors, parents
72 and sponsors our best wishes for continued success.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
74 the Directors of Bands Len Killough and DJ Fitzgerald, Hernando
75 High School Principal Duane Case, forwarded to the DeSoto County
76 Board of Education, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

