

By: Senator(s) Boyd, McCaughn, Michel,
Seymour, Suber

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 129

1 A RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE LEGACY OF LEGENDARY MISSISSIPPI
2 FOOTBALL COACH BOB TYLER AND EXTENDING THE SINCEREST SYMPATHY OF
3 THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE ON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Bob Tyler, a Water Valley native whose coaching
5 career spanned 45 years and included remarkable success as a
6 Mississippi high school coach and included tenure at Mississippi
7 State and Ole Miss, passed away on April 28, 2024, at age 91; and

8 WHEREAS, Tyler's coaching career started in 1957 when he was
9 hired by Water Valley High School in his hometown. The first part
10 of his high school coaching career featured stops at Okolona,
11 Corinth, Senatobia and Meridian. After the second season at
12 Meridian, Tyler was named head coach for one of the teams in the
13 annual All-Star Game, which included a phenomenal quarterback
14 named Archie Manning. From there the relationship between Tyler
15 and Archie Manning lasted a lifetime and they grew so close that
16 Tyler named his middle son Drew, after Manning's home town, Drew,
17 Mississippi; and



18 WHEREAS, Coach Tyler made the transfer to the collegiate
19 ranks when he was hired onto Johnny Vaught's staff at Ole Miss
20 (1968-1970). Tyler spent the 1971 season working under Bear
21 Bryant at Alabama before arriving at Mississippi State the
22 following year as an Offensive Coordinator under Charles Shira;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, in 1973, Tyler became the Coach of the Mississippi
25 State Bulldogs. His official Mississippi State University record,
26 the one with forfeited wins, is not nearly as impressive as the
27 one that matters most. On the field, Tyler was 39-25-3, 14-22-1
28 SEC, in six seasons as the Bulldogs' Head Coach. On the field,
29 his 1974 team went 9-3 with SEC wins over Georgia, LSU and Ole
30 Miss, a Sun Bowl win over North Carolina and a No. 17 national
31 ranking. On the field, his 1976 team went 9-2, 4-2 in the league
32 and was ranked No. 20 at the finish; and

33 WHEREAS, Tyler coached for a year at North Texas and helped
34 with player personnel for the Dallas Cowboys. He and his wife
35 lived in Water Valley, where he spent his days as the Director of
36 the Yalobusha County Economic Development District and a
37 consultant to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries
38 and Parks. Tyler spent time as Mississippi State's Athletic
39 Director from 1976-1979 before moving to North Texas. He was the
40 football coach in 1981 and served as the school's Athletic
41 Director from 1981-1982. He returned as the coach of Northwest
42 Community College from 1984-1985. In 1986, he surfaced as the



43 High School Coach in Oxford before finishing his career at
44 Millsaps College from 2000-2002; and

45 WHEREAS, Coach Tyler was inducted into the Mississippi State
46 Hall of Fame in 2020 and the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in
47 2022; and

48 WHEREAS, "I've been blessed in so many ways," Coach Tyler
49 said; however, the State of Mississippi has been blessed through
50 his legacy. We pay tribute and cherish fondly the memory of this
51 most public-spirited citizen of Mississippi who leaves a legacy of
52 football excellence:

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
54 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby remember the legacy of legendary
55 Mississippi Football Coach Bob Tyler and extending the sincerest
56 sympathy of the Mississippi Senate on his passing and extend to
57 his wife, Dale, and his surviving family our sincerest sympathy on
58 his passing.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
60 the surviving family of Coach Bob Tyler, forwarded to the Athletic
61 Directors of Mississippi State University and the University of
62 Mississippi and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

