

By: Senator(s) Sparks, McCaughn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 131

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE BELMONT HIGH
2 SCHOOL "LADY CARDINALS" GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM AND COACH CHRIS
3 HIGGINBOTTOM FOR AN EXCITING WIN AGAINST REGIONAL RIVAL BOONEVILLE
4 IN THE MHSAA 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, the Belmont High School "Lady Cardinals" Girls
6 Basketball Team led by Coach Chris Higginbottom edged out regional
7 rival Booneville 40-39 on March 1, 2024, in an instant classic to
8 clinch the 2024 Mississippi High School Activities Association
9 (MHSAA) 3A State Championship; and

10 WHEREAS, the State Title is the 13th for the storied Belmont
11 Girls' Basketball Program, the first since 2021 and the fifth
12 under Coach Higginbottom; and

13 WHEREAS, Booneville was vying for its second-straight State
14 Championship. The "Lady Devils" won the two previous meetings
15 this season against Belmont, and like those past two games, the
16 Championship bout was neck-and-neck for most of the contest.
17 Belmont led it 12-11 after the first quarter and 19-14 at the
18 half. Booneville closed the gap in the third quarter and went
19 into the fourth facing a 30-28 deficit; and



20 WHEREAS, when Belmont star Carlie Brock fouled out with 1:08
21 to go and sent Booneville to the line in a tie game, it looked
22 like the "Lady Cardinals" were defeated, but Coach Chris
23 Higginbottom's "Lady Cardinals" pulled out a 40-39 win over their
24 regional rival to clinch the 2023-2024 Class 3A State Championship
25 at the Mississippi Coliseum; and

26 WHEREAS, Belmont's Hailey Ivey's late-game heroics served as
27 exclamation points at the end of an outstanding individual
28 performance. The junior finished with a game-high 17 points and
29 earned MVP honors; and

30 WHEREAS, "I've coached in eight State Championship games
31 since I came to Belmont 19 years ago," Coach Higginbottom said.
32 "And in seven of those games, we faced a team from our own region
33 in the title game.... These games usually come down to one or two
34 possessions, and who steps up and makes a play. That's why I'm so
35 proud of our girls for playing together and finding a way to win";
36 and

37 WHEREAS, Belmont High School "Lady Cardinals" Girls
38 Basketball Championship Team Roster is: Carlie Brock, Alaina
39 Hubbard, Lamaya Southward, McKinley Bennett, Brooklyn Dill,
40 Katerina Reno, Aubree Scott, Abby Lincoln, Karsyn Sullivan,
41 Presley Ross, Sadie Randolph, Kendyl Sparks, Hailey Carouthers,
42 Hailey Ivey, Zoe Henley, Amber Holcomb, Miesha Johnson and Hannah
43 Nieto-Hale; and Coach Chris Higginbottom; and



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

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
48 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the
49 Belmont High School "Lady Cardinals" Girls Basketball Team and
50 Coach Chris Higginbottom for an exciting win against regional
51 rival Booneville in the MHSAA 3A State Championship, and extend
52 the best wishes of the Senate to the team, coaches, parents and
53 sponsors for future success.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
55 Coach Higginbottom and Belmont High School Principal Isaac Taylor
56 for the team, forwarded to the Tishomingo County Board of
57 Education, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

