

By: Representative Calvert

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 WEST LAUDERDALE HIGH SCHOOL LADY KNIGHTS FAST-PITCH SOFTBALL TEAM
3 AND HEAD COACH JAKE LOPER UPON WINNING BACK-TO-BACK STATE
4 CHAMPIONSHIPS WITH THEIR VICTORY IN THE 2024 MISSISSIPPI HIGH
5 SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION (MHSAA) CLASS 4A FAST-PITCH SOFTBALL
6 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

7 WHEREAS, the 2024 West Lauderdale High School Lady Knights
8 Fast-Pitch Softball Team incredibly made school history again by
9 winning, for a second consecutive year, the Mississippi High
10 School Activities Association Class 4A Fast-Pitch Softball State
11 Championship when the team defeated the Purvis Tornadoes in Game 2
12 of the three-game series; and

13 WHEREAS, after winning their first ever state title in 2023,
14 the Lady Knights, who finished their 2024 season with an
15 impressive overall record of 35-4, appeared ready to bring the
16 state title home when the squad handily beat the Tornadoes 5-1 in
17 Game 1 of the series; and

18 WHEREAS, Game 2 at the University of Southern Mississippi
19 Softball Complex, however, proved to be a nailbiter, with the Lady
20 Knights actually trailing by two-runs in the fifth inning before



21 finding themselves tied 6-6 with the bases loaded and two outs in
22 the bottom of the seventh; and

23 WHEREAS, with leadoff hitter Addison Cornish back at the
24 plate after having hit a game-tying, two-run homer in the sixth
25 inning, West Lauderdale's hopes for a hit were never realized
26 although the team eagerly clinched the championship when Cornish,
27 at 3-0, was pitched the game winning ball four, resulting in a
28 walk-off walk for the Class 4A state championship; and

29 WHEREAS, Cornish's spectacular performance in the series,
30 having batted 5-for-8 with one walk, three-runs and five RBIs in
31 the two games, earned her the distinction of being named the
32 series Most Valuable Player; and

33 WHEREAS, while each member of the Lady Knights persistently
34 gave her all with unparalleled motivation and ardent determination
35 to win, a huge part of the team's 2024 success was the phenomenal
36 pitching throughout the season of senior, Breelyn Cain, whose
37 tremendous ability both in the circle and at the plate earned her
38 the title "Miss Softball" for Class 4A in the State of Mississippi
39 for a second straight year; and

40 WHEREAS, the Lady Knights team record and statistics in 2024
41 were impressive, but the key to the team's consistent success has
42 been the constant selfless atmosphere, the true love each member
43 possesses for the game, and the year-round hard work by each and
44 every talented and distinguished player to be the best athlete she
45 can possibly be; and



WHEREAS, the West Lauderdale High School Lady Knights Fast-Pitch Softball Team is comprised of the following athletes: seniors, Breelyn Cain, Kamryn Willoughby, Carsyn Mott, Raegan Brady, Emma McNeill and Manager Brooklee Harbour; juniors, Ava Wilkerson, Caroline Walker and Courtney Lewis; sophomores, Jena Shirley, Addison Cornish and Manager Lauren Skinner; freshmen, Macie Holloway, Lexie Lewis, Annisten Snider, Kylie Smith, McKinley Johnson, Alivia Shows and Manager Laci Boswell; and eighth graders, Callie Cottrill, Aubri Cooper and Olivia Hayes; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Knights have been superbly coached and inspired by second-year Head Coach Jake Loper and Assistant Coaches Lindsey Beard, Beverly McKnight, Jeremiah McKee and Hannah McKee, who have broadened the players' knowledge of the game and refined their skills in execution; and

WHEREAS, in their tireless dedication, the Lady Knights have developed a winning, cooperative spirit and a high degree of sportsmanship, and their activities and attitudes, both on the field and off, reflect great credit upon the individual players and their coaches, bringing honor to West Lauderdale High School and the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, it is the custom of the Legislature to recognize and commend the superb accomplishments of Mississippi student-athletes, especially those such as the West Lauderdale High School Lady Knights Fast-Pitch Softball Team, whose



71 excellence on the field and in the classroom bring honor to their
72 school, community and the entire State of Mississippi:

73 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
74 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
75 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the West
76 Lauderdale High School Lady Knights Fast-Pitch Softball Team and
77 Head Coach Jake Loper upon winning back-to-back state
78 championships with their victory in the 2024 Mississippi High
79 School Activities Association Class 4A Fast-Pitch Softball State
80 Championship and extend best wishes to the team and coaches for
81 continued success in all their future endeavors.

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
83 furnished to Head Coach Jake Loper, West Lauderdale High School
84 and the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

