

By: Representative McMillan

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 42

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MADISON-RIDGELAND
2 ACADEMY BOYS AND GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS, COACH TRACE WALTERS
3 AND COACH PAT LOVITT UPON WINNING THE 2024 MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION
4 OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS (MAIS) CLASS 6A STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

5 WHEREAS, the Madison-Ridgeland Academy (MRA) Boys and Girls
6 Cross Country Teams finished the 2024 season in an outstanding
7 fashion, reigning victorious as the 2024 Mississippi Association
8 of Independent Schools (MAIS) Class 6A State Champions; and

9 WHEREAS, these dedicated young men and women endured and
10 outpaced the competition as they raced over the rolling hills and
11 around the challenging loops, and thus, decimated the championship
12 dreams of their foes on their way to ultimate victory; and

13 WHEREAS, with fervent determination and dauntless fortitude,
14 the MRA Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams, who are no strangers
15 to capturing the MAIS state championship, persevered and developed
16 an immaculate strategy for enduring the extensive cross country
17 course, which ultimately led to the teams winning the
18 distinguished title of state champions; and



19 WHEREAS, the MRA Boys Cross Country Team was tremendously
20 coached and greatly inspired by Head Coach Trace Walters, who is
21 in his fifth year of coaching and who led the team to a state
22 championship last year and has served as a true inspiration to the
23 team; and

24 WHEREAS, members of the championship winning 2024 MRA Boys
25 Cross Country Team are as follows: Jack Bailey, Walker Britt, Sam
26 Chew, Charlie Greaves, Frazier James, Ford Johnson, Layton Lewis,
27 Jonathan Mann, Bradyn Mason, Mason Towler, Channing Royce and
28 Brayden Young; and

29 WHEREAS, additionally, the MRA Girls Cross Country Team was
30 led and inspired by Coach Pat Lovitt who has garnered eight
31 consecutive titles in his 12 years of coaching and has provided
32 strong leadership and served as a role model for the Patriots; and

33 WHEREAS, members of the championship winning MRA 2024 Girls
34 Cross Country Team are as follows: Mae Ellen Mallett, Anna Gail
35 Dillon, Reese Johnson, Anna Morgan Anderson, Riz McBride, Blair
36 Britt, Cora Tatum Nisbett, Hayden Banks and Parker Jo Haney; and

37 WHEREAS, the Patriots have developed a winning and
38 cooperative spirit and a high degree of sportsmanship, and their
39 activities and attitudes reflect great credit upon the dedicated
40 student-athletes and their coaches and bring great honor to
41 Madison-Ridgeland Academy; and

42 WHEREAS, additionally, Coach Trace Walters and Coach Pat
43 Lovitt have instilled a sense of discipline and a strong ethic in



44 their championship teams while fostering a positive and inclusive
45 team culture that was a pivotal part of the Patriots road to
46 success and this discipline will serve as a continued positive
47 aspect of the lives of the student-athletes; and

48 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
49 recognize outstanding student-athletes, especially those such as
50 the Madison-Ridgeland Academy Patriot Boys and Girls Cross Country
51 Teams, whose athletic excellence brings honor to their school,
52 their community and the State of Mississippi:

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
54 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
55 commend and congratulate the Madison-Ridgeland Academy Patriot
56 Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams, Coach Trace Walters and Coach
57 Pat Lovitt upon winning the 2024 Mississippi Association of
58 Independent Schools (MAIS) Class 6A State Championship, and extend
59 sincerest wishes for continued success in all their future
60 endeavors.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
62 furnished to Coach Trace Walters, Coach Pat Lovitt and to the
63 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

