

By: Representatives Owen, Hobgood-Wilkes,
Ladner

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 46

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE POPLARVILLE
2 HIGH SCHOOL HORNETS FOOTBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH JAY BEECH FOR
3 WINNING THEIR FIRST EVER MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
4 ASSOCIATION CLASS 4A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, the Poplarville High School Hornets reigned supreme
6 on December 7, 2024, at the Mississippi High School Activities
7 Association Class 4A State Championship when they won their
8 long-sought after state championship title after knocking down the
9 Louisville Wildcats from its two-year streak with a 29-28 win; and

10 WHEREAS, the championship game at Southern Miss M.M. Roberts
11 Stadium was Poplarville's first trip to the state games since its
12 loss to Louisville in 2020; however, Poplarville proved victorious
13 and secured its first-ever football state championship title; and

14 WHEREAS, in a nerve-wracking game between rivals, the
15 Poplarville Hornets and Louisville Wildcats took to the field,
16 fighting to earn the title of 2024-2025 4A State Champions, and
17 Poplarville held out against Louisville during the true
18 nail-biter, winning 29-28 and making history for the small-town
19 high school; and



20 WHEREAS, going to the championship game itself is not new for
21 the Hornets, as Poplarville High School has been to the 4A State
22 Championship four times prior, two being against Louisville, and
23 none resulting in taking home the gold ball, but this trip was
24 different; and

25 WHEREAS, with many players out previously in the season, the
26 Hornets overcame much adversity and arrived at the season-ending
27 game with a record of 12-2, winning to close out with an
28 outstanding 13-2 finish; and

29 WHEREAS, Tylan Keys, was named the most valuable player and
30 played a great offensive game against the Wildcats, as his
31 performance helped clinch the title, and by the end of the game,
32 he had 130 rushing yards, a touchdown on 23 carries, and a kickoff
33 return touchdown; and

34 WHEREAS, while Ty was named MVP, many other players
35 contributed to the ending score of 29 over Louisville's 28,
36 including the Hornets quarterback, Sydney Blackmon, who had 81
37 passing yards and one passing touchdown in the championship game
38 and 1580 yards and 16 touchdown passes overall; and

39 WHEREAS, alongside the senior quarterback, running back Zack
40 Case and wide receiver Nick Miller also had outstanding seasons,
41 and during the championship game, Miller gained multiple first
42 downs for his team and scored a touchdown from the 1-yard line,
43 and Zack Case caught a 20-yard pass from quarterback Sydney
44 Blackmon and made a crucial touchdown for the Hornets; and



45 WHEREAS, additionally, newly joined Hornet Jeremiah Moss
46 arrived at the beginning of the season and made his last season
47 special, as he served as the Hornet's tight end and punter, and he
48 played an essential role in the victory over Louisville on
49 Saturday night, with a 50-yard catch thrown by Blackmon; and

50 WHEREAS, none of the success of the Hornets offense would
51 have been possible without the amazing offensive line, which
52 blocked their hearts out and left enough holes for the offensive
53 scorers to run the ball to the endzone; and

54 WHEREAS, as the old saying goes, "Defense wins
55 championships.", and that was definitely true during the Hornets
56 championship game, as many players played their most challenging
57 on the defensive front to keep the Wildcats away from the endzone
58 and, ultimately, bring home the coveted gold football trophy; and

59 WHEREAS, Ayden Harmon led the team in four solo tackles and
60 10 assisted tackles and Harmon ended his season with 68 solo
61 tackles and 52 assisted tackles, and Jason "Biggie" Smith also
62 played a great game, falling close behind Harmon with eight
63 assisted tackles and a game-saving interception; and

64 WHEREAS, other notable players on the defensive line were
65 Cole Henry, who got an interception, Parker Pearson, who had the
66 same game stats of 2 solo tackles and four assisted tackles, and
67 Josh Beck and Nathan Brown, whose names were repeated over the
68 speakers multiple times for their defensive skills; and



69 WHEREAS, the 2024 Poplarville High School Hornets
70 Championship Football roster is comprised of the following
71 talented athletes: Cole Henry, Josh Beck, Nick Miller, Torry
72 Robinson, Thomas Lambert, Walt Graham, Tylan Keys, Trac Smith,
73 Zack Case, Zae Smith, Jason Smith, Jacob Carollo, Ayden Harmon,
74 Titan Smith, Lennox Beech, Jayden Raine, Mason Dedeaux, Semaj
75 Jamison, Chadwick Brown, Jackson Moss, Ethan Martin, Hayden
76 Blanchard, Lock Russell, Rhett McCardle, Ian Magee, Alonso
77 Sanchez, Jeremiah Moss, Tate Smith, Dereck Penton, Jackson Baker,
78 Jenson Abercrombie, Aidan Graham, Sydney Blackmon, Jacob
79 Culpepper, Eli Seal, Braylen Allen, Mack Knight, Lamarcus Compton,
80 Jake Cotton, Zeke Daffern, Remy Naquin, Austin Clark, Ben Will,
81 Hunter Heatherly, Sam Will, Jakeob Taylor, Ethan Allen, Jobe
82 Lambert, Parker Pearson, Brennan Brown, Brayden Kite, Tanner
83 Stockstill, Jaxon Schultz, Tyler Degeorge,
84 Jaycee Singletary, Brayden Fussell, Peytan Hart, Aiden Berger,
85 Aaron Graham and Nathan Brown; and

86 WHEREAS, Head Coach Jay Beech has superbly coached and
87 inspired the Hornets and broadened their knowledge of the game
88 while refining their skills in execution, and he continues to
89 build upon the legacy of superior play and true sportsmanship
90 forged by the tenacious and undaunted spirit of each team member,
91 as evidenced in his ability to produce high caliber players and
92 plays and by the team's successful season; and



93 WHEREAS, the team's success would not have been possible
94 without the help of Assistant Coaches Jacob Owen, Justin Moss,
95 Chandler Ray, Christopher Dewease, Justin Sones, Brad Wells, and
96 Adam Johnson, who each helped the players reach their fullest
97 potential and achieve greatness; and

98 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
99 recognize and honor the achievements of student-athletes such as
100 the Poplarville High School Hornets Football Team, who have
101 brought honor to their school, the City of Poplarville and the
102 State of Mississippi:

103 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
104 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
105 commend and congratulate the Poplarville High School Hornets
106 Football Team and Head Coach Jay Beech for winning their first
107 ever Mississippi High School Activities Association Class 4A State
108 Championship and extend best wishes for continued success in all
109 their future endeavors.

110 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
111 furnished to Head Coach Jay Beech and to the members of the
112 Capitol Press Corps.

