

By: Representatives Mims, Mangold

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 48

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE PARKLANE
2 ACADEMY PIONEERS FOOTBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH RON RUSHING FOR
3 WINNING THE MIDSOUTH ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS CLASS 5A
4 STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, Parklane Academy Pioneers Football Team reigned
6 supreme over the Leake Academy Rebels Football Team to claim the
7 Midsouth Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) Class 5A State
8 Championship, the Pioneers' first state title since 1994; and

9 WHEREAS, throughout their historic season, the Parklane
10 Pioneers had been doubted, as they lost a plethora of starters and
11 had question marks at plenty of major positions, but by the end of
12 the season, the Pioneers had not lost to a single 5A school and
13 finished their championship season with a 12-2 overall record and
14 a 6-0 mark in district play; and

15 WHEREAS, during each game in their rise to the top, the
16 Parklane Pioneers' mental stamina and determination never waivered
17 from the moment they ran onto the field until the last down was
18 played, and they intensely amplified all of their hard work and



19 motivation, which were so apparent throughout the entire season,
20 for the championship game where they beat Leake Academy 70-42; and

21 WHEREAS, heading into the MAIS 5A state championship game,
22 Parklane's Jax Toler had rushed for 1,693 yards over the course of
23 a season in which he was one of the state's top rushers, and
24 during the championship game, he finished with a whopping 278
25 yards on the ground, and after entering the game with 29
26 touchdowns on the season, he finished the season at 35, as he
27 found the end zone six times during the championship game; and

28 WHEREAS, balance had been a central theme for Parklane this
29 season, and when Toler got going, that opened things up in the
30 passing game for senior quarterback JD Dumas, and he linked up
31 with sophomore Davis Carruth on a number of occasions, as the
32 freakishly athletic receiver had a knack for finding the soft spot
33 in the Rebels' coverage; and

34 WHEREAS, after junior Hayden McCurley sacked Rebel
35 quarterback George Wilcox to force a punt on Leake's opening
36 series, Parklane's offense took the field, and Toler set the tone
37 with a chunk gain on his very first touch, and junior Tanner Kyzar
38 followed him up with another first-down run to move Parklane into
39 Rebel territory, and after moving into the red zone, Toler went
40 untouched for a 10-yard score; and

41 WHEREAS, Leake's offense made adjustments on its second
42 possession, as the normally prolific passer George Wilcox actually
43 began to use his legs to move the ball, both by design and in



44 scramble situations, and the Pioneer defense struggled to contain
45 the bulky signal-caller, and the Rebels punched in a short rushing
46 touchdown but missed the ensuing extra point, leaving the score at
47 7-6 with just under five minutes left in the first quarter;
48 however, that was the closest Leake would be to beating Parklane
49 for the rest of the game; and

50 WHEREAS, once the Pioneers were back on offense, Toler picked
51 up right where he left off, ripping off another long run where he
52 spun off a defender and forced a trio of Rebels to pull him to the
53 ground, and Dumas then threw his first pass of the game, a first
54 down to Carruth over the middle of the field, but Toler was
55 stuffed inside the 10-yard line to force a 4th-and-goal soon after
56 but Head Coach Ron Rushing had plenty of confidence in his offense
57 ability and left his offensive unit on the field for 4th down; and

58 WHEREAS, his faith in the unit paid off, because Dumas
59 stepped up into the pocket and found Carruth in the back of the
60 end zone to extend the Parklane lead to 14-6 towards the end of
61 the first quarter, and on the next drive, senior linebacker Eli
62 Davis got to Wilcox, who never felt safe and comfortable in the
63 pocket that night; and

64 WHEREAS, soon after, senior defensive back Jarvis Scott broke
65 up a pass on a fourth down to give the ball back to his offense,
66 and on the following drive, Carruth sat down in a soft spot and
67 Dumas found him for a solid gain, but the receiver proceeded to



68 juke three defenders out of their shoes before being pulled down
69 in the red zone; and

70 WHEREAS, Toler proceeded to make a defender miss before
71 waltzing into the end zone for his third score of the evening,
72 pushing his team's advantage to 21-6 with 10:16 left before
73 halftime; and

74 WHEREAS, Leake mounted a strong drive thanks to a pop pass in
75 which Wilcox faked like he was going to run it and found a tight
76 end over the middle for a big gain, but the Rebels' quarterback
77 failed to see Parklane defensive back Eli Chandler over the middle
78 of the field on a crossing route, and the sophomore intercepted
79 the pass in the end zone to steal momentum right back; and

80 WHEREAS, junior receiver Kyle Rushing got into the action
81 with a strong-handed catch on a Dumas roll out, and Carruth reeled
82 in another catch for a first down, and then Toler proceeded to
83 burst through the line for an easy score soon after, pushing the
84 lead to 28-7, and with just over five minutes left in the first
85 half, the senior tailback had already accounted for 168 rushing
86 yards and three touchdowns; and

87 WHEREAS, Leake's offense came into this game as an explosive
88 unit, especially in its aerial attack, but when the Pioneer
89 offense momentarily stalled, giving Leake the ball in great field
90 position with a chance to cut the deficit to just seven before
91 halftime, they came up short, as Parklane's Eli Chandler jumped an



92 out-route to intercept Wilcox for the second time, a play that
93 sucked the life out of the Rebel sideline; and

94 WHEREAS, the Parklane offense took advantage of the
95 interception, and after a slip screen to Toler that he took deep
96 into Leake's territory, they went for it on 4th-and-goal again,
97 and Dumas delivered a ball right into the bread basket for senior
98 Trey Jackson on a middle post, allowing the Pioneers to take a
99 commanding 35-14 lead into halftime; and

100 WHEREAS, the start of the second half began like the start of
101 the first, with Toler finding the end zone for a fourth time; and

102 WHEREAS, while Leake Academy answered with a score of their
103 own, their defense was simply no match for the powerful Pioneer
104 offense, as Dumas found Carruth on a play-action pass over the
105 middle, and the receiver glided into the end zone to make it 49-21
106 with just under nine minutes left in the third quarter; and

107 WHEREAS, senior lineman Camp Lott then sacked the Rebel
108 quarterback and Pioneer junior defensive lineman Paw Forrest
109 picked up a tackle for loss to put the Rebels behind the sticks,
110 but after Leake made it into the end zone again, Toler ran in his
111 fifth touchdown of the night at the close of the third quarter,
112 extending the lead to 56-28; and

113 WHEREAS, the fourth quarter followed the same trends that the
114 rest of the game did, where Wilcox completed a long pass for a
115 score for the Rebels before Toler ran in his sixth touchdown of
116 the game behind another strong push from his O-line; and



117 WHEREAS, when the Rebels got the ball back looking to put
118 some more quick points on the board, that did not happen, and
119 instead, Lott recorded his first-ever varsity touchdown, as he
120 scooped up a fumble from Wilcox in the backfield and raced into
121 the end zone before being mobbed by his teammates in a special
122 moment for the senior; and

123 WHEREAS, as the final whistle blew, Head Coach Rushing
124 received a Gatorade bath, the entire Parklane team received gold
125 medals and the senior class hoisted the championship trophy into
126 the air as the kings of MAIS Class 5A football had just cemented
127 themselves in the history books with their dominant performance;
128 and

129 WHEREAS, Head Coach Ron Rushing has superbly coached and
130 inspired the Pioneers and broadened their knowledge of the game
131 while refining their skills in execution, and he continues to
132 build upon the legacy of superior play and true sportsmanship
133 forged by the tenacious and undaunted spirit of each team member;
134 and

135 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
136 recognize and honor the achievements of student-athletes such as
137 the Parklane Academy Pioneers Football Team, who have brought
138 honor to their school, the City of McComb and to the State of
139 Mississippi:

140 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
141 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby



142 commend and congratulate the Parklane Academy Pioneers Football
143 Team and Head Coach Ron Rushing for winning the Midsouth
144 Association of Independent Schools Class 5A State Football
145 Championship, and extend best wishes for continued success in all
146 their future endeavors.

147 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
148 furnished to Head Coach Ron Rushing and to the members of the
149 Capitol Press Corps.

