

By: Representatives Mims, Mangold

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 79

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE 2024-2025
2 PARKLANE ACADEMY LADY PIONEERS BASKETBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH
3 VICKI RUTLAND UPON WINNING THE MIDSOUTH ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT
4 SCHOOLS (MAIS) OVERALL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, on February 26, 2025, the Parklane Academy Lady
6 Pioneers Basketball Team defeated Madison-Ridgeland Academy Lady
7 Patriots in the 2025 Midsouth Association of Independent Schools
8 (MAIS) Overall Basketball Championship, incredibly bringing home
9 to McComb Parklane's first Overall championship trophy since 1993;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the championship, played at Mississippi College in
12 Clinton, proved to be quite a nailbiter, with the Lady Pioneers
13 trailing the entire game, sometimes by double digits, from the
14 tip-off until less than three minutes remained on the clock in the
15 final quarter when junior Zoe Alford scored a three-pointer,
16 giving the Pioneers a one-point lead; and

17 WHEREAS, while both teams showcased exemplary skill and
18 determination on the hardwood, the Lady Pioneers played with a
19 singular goal to keep fighting regardless of the score, and their



20 mental stamina and unimaginable amount of fortitude never wavered
21 for a moment, despite the uphill battle, as they outlasted and
22 ultimately overpowered their opponent with a 45-42 victory; and

23 WHEREAS, in addition to the MAIS Overall title, the 28-5 Lady
24 Pioneers, loyally supported and encouraged with each challenging
25 game on both their home court and away by the school
26 administration and local community, finished their 2024-2025
27 season with a 5A South-State title and second place finish in the
28 Class 5A Tournament; and

29 WHEREAS, the Parklane Academy Lady Pioneers' success is
30 attributable to the remarkable commitment and hard work of its
31 talented student-athletes, including: Brenley Caston, AB
32 Hemphill, Sydney Brewer, Lay Jackson, Carlyle Carruth, Mady
33 Rayborn, Lexi Lott, Zoe Alford, Carley Melton, Jaden Hall, Anna
34 Sawyer, Kherington Weekley, scorekeeper Sara Harden, and
35 statistician Missy Carruth; and

36 WHEREAS, the Lady Pioneers have been superbly coached and
37 inspired by Head Coach Vicki Rutland, Assistant Coach Tammy
38 Gillihan, and Volunteer Coaches Joe Campbell and Carol Reeves, who
39 have broadened the players' knowledge of the game and refined
40 their skills in execution, and they continue to build upon the
41 legacy of superior play and true sportsmanship forged by the
42 tenacious and undaunted spirit of each team member; and

43 WHEREAS, the members of this team will forever carry the
44 unforgettable memories they made along the way to their



45 hard-earned championship status, whether it be the long hours of
46 grueling practices or just spending time away from school
47 together, as well as the lessons of hard work, dedication and
48 perseverance learned during this amazing season; and

49 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
50 recognize and commend excellence such as that displayed by the
51 Parklane Academy Lady Pioneers Basketball Team, and it is with
52 great pride that we congratulate this elite group of
53 student-athletes and Coach Vicki Rutland, who have brought honor
54 to Parklane Academy, their families and community, and to the
55 entire State of Mississippi:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
57 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
58 commend and congratulate the 2024-2025 Parklane Academy Lady
59 Pioneers Basketball Team and Coach Vicki Rutland upon winning the
60 Midsouth Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) Overall
61 Basketball Championship and extend best wishes to the team and
62 coaches for continued success in all their future endeavors.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
64 furnished to Parklane Academy, Coach Vicki Rutland and to the
65 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

