

By: Representatives Aguirre, Boyd (19th),  
Thompson, Turner

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 89

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE 2024-2025  
2 TUPELO HIGH SCHOOL LADY WAVE BASKETBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH MATT  
3 JUSTICE UPON WINNING BACK-TO-BACK MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL  
4 ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION (MHSAA) CLASS 7A STATE BASKETBALL  
5 CHAMPIONSHIPS.

6 WHEREAS, the Tupelo High School Girls Basketball Team reigned  
7 supreme after finishing the 2024-2025 season with an impressive  
8 record, and capturing the Mississippi High School Activities  
9 Association Class 7A State Basketball Championship, their first  
10 back-to-back state championships in school history; and

11 WHEREAS, throughout their season, the Lady Wave, who finished  
12 the season with a 29-4 record, played with clear eyes, full hearts  
13 and unimaginable amounts of fortitude, and during the state  
14 championship game, their mental stamina and athletic prowess never  
15 wavered from the moment they first hustled onto the court until  
16 the final buzzer buzzed, as they outlasted, outplayed and  
17 ultimately overpowered their opponent; and

18 WHEREAS, the Class 7A state championship game marked the  
19 fourth time Tupelo and Starkville faced each other during the



20 season, which might seem like a challenge to some, coming up with  
21 different plays and tactics, but the Lady Wave saw it as a huge  
22 advantage; and

23 WHEREAS, during the championship game, the Lady Wave was down  
24 nine points at halftime, but they mounted a second-half comeback  
25 and defended their Class 7A state title with a 62-57 overtime win  
26 over Starkville at Mississippi Coliseum; and

27 WHEREAS, the state championship was a true nail biter that  
28 left fans on the edge of their seats until the last second, and  
29 Tupelo's biggest deficit came late in the second quarter, when the  
30 team trailed 20-7; and

31 WHEREAS, the Lady Wave saw its first lead of the game after a  
32 layup by senior Jade Rucker with 2:38 remaining in the third  
33 quarter, and a back-and-forth affair followed with multiple lead  
34 changes and overtime; and

35 WHEREAS, Jade Rucker, who has signed to play college  
36 basketball at Austin Peay, led Tupelo during the championship game  
37 with 22 points and 12 rebounds, and behind Rucker, Nadia Norfleet  
38 had 14 points for Tupelo and Olivia Smith had 12; and

39 WHEREAS, the Lady Wave has been superbly coached and inspired  
40 by Head Coach Matt Justice, who has broadened the players'  
41 knowledge of the game and refined their skills in execution, and  
42 he continues to build upon the legacy of superior play and true  
43 sportsmanship forged by the tenacious and undaunted spirit of each  
44 team member; and



45 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
46 recognize and commend excellence, especially that displayed by the  
47 Tupelo High School Lady Wave Basketball Team, and it is with great  
48 pride that we congratulate this elite group of student-athletes  
49 and Head Coach Matt Justice, who have brought honor to their  
50 school and to the great State of Mississippi:

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
52 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
53 commend and congratulate the 2024-2025 Tupelo High School Lady  
54 Wave Basketball Team and Head Coach Matt Justice upon winning  
55 back-to-back Mississippi High School Activities Association Class  
56 7A State Basketball Championships, and extend best wishes to the  
57 team for continued success in all their future endeavors.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
59 furnished to Head Coach Matt Justice and to the members of the  
60 Capitol Press Corps.

