

By: Senator(s) Seymour, Barnett

To: Rules

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 9

1       A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING STONE COUNTY HIGH  
2 SCHOOL LADY CATS SENIOR GOLFER CARISSA HESTER FOR WINNING THE  
3 MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION 5A DISTRICT,  
4 REGIONAL AND STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

5       WHEREAS, we recognize a Stone County High School golfer who  
6 won "Gold on the Green"; and

7       WHEREAS, for the first time in school history, a Stone County  
8 High School Lady Cats senior has won both the regional and state  
9 championship titles in golf; and

10       WHEREAS, Golfer Carissa Hester battled to pull off the 5A  
11 MHSAA Golf State Championship win on October 22, 2024; and

12       WHEREAS, "We had high expectations," golf coach Austin Miller  
13 said of Hester's win. Miller knew Hester could win, but she had  
14 to play at her best. "We know there would be good competition.  
15 The highest-rated players going into the tournament ended up  
16 battling it out;" and

17       WHEREAS, Carissa kept herself humble and realistic coming  
18 onto the green. She did not want to over or underestimate the



19 course. "I think I played pretty good," Hester said. "I would  
20 say I just kept calm"; and

21 WHEREAS, Hester's fourth appearance at the state championship  
22 was her first time winning it. "She had a four-shot advantage  
23 after the first round, and then won the tournament by three,"  
24 Coach Miller said. Hester said seeing her competition win year  
25 after year motivated her to win even more. "I was just really  
26 excited because it was my senior year and I've never had the state  
27 title before," Hester said; and

28 WHEREAS, Hester started playing golf in eighth grade but did  
29 not become competitive with the sport until her freshman year.  
30 "I've grown very fast. I've taken a lot of lessons, and I've  
31 worked hard for this. So I do really feel like I deserve this,"  
32 she said. Competing over two days, the tournament consisted of  
33 two rounds of an 18-hole golf course at the 400-acre, par 72  
34 Whispering Pines Golf Course in Moss Point, Mississippi; and

35 WHEREAS, Hester led the singles competition with a par-73 on  
36 the first day and a par-78 on the second. Coach Miller said  
37 Hester was the anchor of the Lady Cats team. "My eighth graders  
38 played well, but it's all about the experience," Miller said. The  
39 Lady Cats golf team has four players: eighth graders Ella-Rose  
40 Smith and Layla Parker and seniors Carissa Hester and Addison  
41 Cabe; and

42 WHEREAS, this season was the last season for Hester and Cabe.  
43 Hester advised the upcoming team, "They just need to get out and

44 play golf, and when bad days come, it happens; you just got to  
45 push through." Coach Miller said the team is going to state, and  
46 there is a lot of excitement in girls' golf. On November 12,  
47 Hester, along with Bryce Fairley of the boys' golf team, played in  
48 the All-Star Golf Tournament at the Azaleas at the Dancing Rabbit  
49 Golf Club in Philadelphia, Mississippi, competing against 38 other  
50 all-star finalists; and

51 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we commend a young  
52 Mississippi athlete who has brought honor to her golf team, her  
53 school, her community and to the State of Mississippi:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
55 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Stone  
56 County High School Lady Cats Senior Golfer Carissa Hester for  
57 winning the MHSAA 5A District, Regional and State Championship,  
58 and extend our best wishes for future success on the golf course  
59 and in her college career.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
61 Carissa Hester and her family, forwarded to Coach Austin Miller  
62 and the Stone County Board of Education and made available to the  
63 Capitol Press Corps.

