

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.

