

By: Senator(s) Barrett

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 40

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE BROOKHAVEN
2 HIGH SCHOOL LADY PANTHERS GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM AND HEAD COACH
3 SHANNON KNOTT FOR WINNING THE SCHOOL'S FIRST 5A STATE TITLE.

4 WHEREAS, November 2, 2024, is a date that the parents, fans
5 and supporters of the Brookhaven High School Girls Cross-Country
6 Team will never forget. The same is especially true for the
7 student athletes on the team and their Coaches, Shannon Knott and
8 Kevin Bower; and

9 WHEREAS, it was on that date when the Brookhaven High School
10 Girls Cross-Country Team won its first State Championship in
11 program history in thrilling style at the MHSAA 5A State Title
12 Meet on Choctaw Trails in south Jackson. After being close year
13 after year, the team had finished as 5A runners-up in six of the
14 last seven previous seasons. It was finally their turn to hoist
15 the Championship trophy; and

16 WHEREAS, Brookhaven High School Lady Panthers beat Corinth
17 High by a single point, as the Lady Panthers earned 35 points, and



18 the Warriors from northeast Mississippi came in second with 36
19 points; and

20 WHEREAS, Cross-Country is a sport that demands dedication.
21 An athlete can't expect to be fast in November if she isn't
22 putting in the miles during the worst of the June and July heat
23 that Mississippi has to offer; and

24 WHEREAS, the win by Brookhaven High School broke a string of
25 Corinth winning six straight State Championships in its
26 classification. To defeat the Warriors, the Lady Panthers knew
27 they would need to improve and go lower in 2024; and

28 WHEREAS, Brookhaven High School brought six runners to the
29 Championship, with four of them being seniors. Senior Natalie
30 McKinney was the first Panther across the finish line, finishing
31 the 5K course in 21 minutes and 40 seconds. Following McKinney
32 across the line was her sophomore teammate, Isabella Iles with a
33 time of 21:50, in fourth place. Iles also finished fourth last
34 season in the state meet. Iles' senior teammate, Ariyana Graham,
35 came across the finish line at 21.50.56. Senior Ella Thompson
36 finished 15th in 23:56, and sophomore Abby Slay followed her in
37 18th place with a time of 24:19; and

38 WHEREAS, the Lady Panthers did not think they had won at
39 first. In fact, Corinth High was being interviewed by a running
40 website as the winners when the screen flashed that Brookhaven
41 High School had won. The news sent the girls sprinting to find
42 Coach Knott to celebrate; and



WHEREAS, running in a massive field that draws over 100 schools from all over the southeast United States, the Lady Panthers got great results out of Iles, Summers, McKinney and Graham that day as Iles broke her previous school-best time with a 21:50. On November 2, 2024, a group of two sophomores and four seniors wrote their names forever in the Brookhaven High School history books as State Champions; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Brookhaven High School Girls Cross-County Team MHSAA 5A State Championship roster: Ally Slay, Isabella Iles, Natalie McKinney, Annabelle Summers, Ariyana Graham and Ella Thompson; Head Coach Shannon Knott; and Assistant Coach Kevin Bower; and

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this group of student athletes who have brought honor to their school, their community and to the State of Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the Brookhaven High School Lady Panthers Girls Cross-Country Team and Head Coach Shannon Knott for winning the school's first 5A State Title, and extend the best wishes of the Mississippi Senate to the team, coaches, administration, parents and sponsors for future state championships.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to Coach Shannon Knott on behalf of the team, forwarded to Principal



67 Shonique McLaurin and the Lincoln County Board of Education, and
68 be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

