

By: Senator(s) Boyd, Barnett, Horhn,
McCaughn, Michel, Suber

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 70

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING FORMER OLE MISS
2 TRACK-AND-FIELD STAR AND OXFORD NATIVE SAM KENDRICKS FOR EARNING A
3 SILVER MEDAL IN THE MEN'S POLE VAULT EVENT AT THE 2024 OLYMPICS IN
4 PARIS AND FOR HIS OUTSTANDING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CAREER.

5 WHEREAS, former Ole Miss track-and-field star and Oxford
6 native Sam Kendricks earned a Silver Medal in the men's pole vault
7 event on August 5, 2024, at the 2024 Olympics in Paris. Kendricks
8 cleared a distance of 5.95 meters, his season's best. His
9 personal best is 6.06 meters; and

10 WHEREAS, Samuel Hathorn Kendricks is a three-time indoor and
11 six-time outdoor National Champion (2014-2019), the 2016 Olympics
12 Bronze and 2024 Olympics Silver Medalist, and the 2017 and 2019
13 World Champion. In 2019, Kendricks set the American pole vault
14 record at 6.06 m, tying with Steve Hooker for fourth all time. He
15 later won the Gold Medal at the World Championships in Doha,
16 Qatar; and

17 WHEREAS, Kendricks vaulted for Oxford High School in his
18 hometown of Oxford, Mississippi, leading his team to the 2009
19 MHSAA 5A State Championship. He vaulted 17 ft. 0 in. (5.18 m) to



20 set the then-state record, later broken in 2023 by his brother
21 John Scott with a vault of 17 ft. 1 in. (5.2 m). Sam won the
22 state meet outdoors in 2010 and 2011, and indoors in 2011. He
23 also lettered in cross country and soccer. In 2011, he was named
24 the Gatorade Boys' High School Track-and-Field Athlete of the Year
25 for Mississippi; and

26 WHEREAS, while vaulting for the University of Mississippi,
27 Kendricks won the 2013 and 2014 NCAA Championships. He broke both
28 Ole Miss Rebels pole vault records as a freshman. Kendricks
29 announced that he would be turning pro in 2014; and

30 WHEREAS, Kendricks set his personal best of 5.86 m (19 ft.
31 2-1/2 in.) at the indoor 2015 Reno Pole Vault Summit. Kendrick
32 uses a hand hold at 15 ft. 5 in. (4.69 m) and from his performance
33 in Reno claims the "Push-off" World Record at 4 ft. 6 in. (1.37
34 m). He won the men's pole vault at the 2015 U.S. Outdoor
35 Championships in 5.75 m (18 ft. 10-1/4 in.). He won the prelims
36 of the 2015 World Championships in Athletics - Men's Pole Vault,
37 and finished 9th in 5.65 m (18 ft. 6-1/4 in.); and

38 WHEREAS, after setting a personal best outdoors at the IAAF
39 World Challenge in Beijing, at 5.92 m (19 ft. 5 in.), Kendricks
40 won the U.S. Olympic Trials at 5.91 m (19 ft. 4-1/2 in.). At the
41 2016 Summer Olympics, he won the Bronze Medal. Kendricks also
42 garnered attention during the Olympics when he stopped mid run
43 during a pole vault attempt to stand at attention while "The
44 Star-Spangled Banner" was played; and



45 WHEREAS, on June 24, 2017, Kendricks became the 22nd person
46 to join the Six Meters Club by vaulting exactly 6.00 m (19 ft. 8
47 in.) while winning the 2017 USA Outdoor Track-and-Field
48 Championships in Sacramento, California. On July 27, 2019,
49 Kendricks set the American pole vault record by jumping 6.06 m.
50 Kendricks placed second in the U.S. Olympic trials at 5.91 m (19
51 ft. 2-1/4 in.) tied with KC Lightfoot; however, he tested positive
52 for COVID-19 in the Olympic Village, and had to withdraw from the
53 2020 Summer Olympics as a result, missing the pole vault
54 competition; and

55 WHEREAS, leading up to the 2024 U.S. Olympic trials final,
56 Kendricks stated that he might be inclined to forgo the 2024
57 Olympics after his experience from Tokyo 2020 when he claimed that
58 his positive COVID-19 test had been a false positive and the USOC
59 had done nothing to fight on his behalf. On June 23, 2024, he won
60 his 7th outdoor (11th overall) U.S. National Pole Vault
61 Championship by clearing 5.92 m (19 ft. 5 in.) and earned an
62 automatic bid for the Olympics. After the competition was over,
63 he confirmed that he would be going to Paris; and

64 WHEREAS, in the 2024 Olympic Men's Pole Vault final, he
65 claimed the Silver Medal for Team USA by clearing a height of 5.95
66 m (19 ft. 6-1/4 in.). He was defeated by Armand "Mondo" Duplantis
67 who set a new world record at 6.25 m (20 ft. 6 in.). With more
68 than 77,000 breathless people zeroed in on him - every other event
69 had finished by 10 p.m., which meant pole vault got all the



70 attention. Duplantis' vault set off an eruption in Stade de
71 France, led by Sam Kendricks, who went streaking across the track
72 to celebrate with his friend. "Pole vault breeds brotherhood,"
73 Kendricks said of the celebration with Duplantis. The event went
74 on for more than three hours, with vaulters passing time chatting
75 with each other between jumps; and

76 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we join the
77 track-and-field sports world in recognizing an outstanding
78 Mississippi athlete who has brought honor to his family, his
79 hometown, his university and to the State of Mississippi:

80 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
81 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate former Ole
82 Miss Track-and-Field Star and Oxford native Sam Kendricks for
83 earning a Silver Medal in the men's pole vault event at the 2024
84 Olympics in Paris and for his outstanding national championship
85 career; and extend the best wishes of the Mississippi Senate to
86 Sam for future success.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
88 Sam Kendricks, forwarded to the Athletic Director of the
89 University of Mississippi and Oxford High School, and be made
90 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

