

By: Senator(s) McMahan, Bryan

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 94

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE TUPELO HIGH
2 SCHOOL LADY WAVE GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH MATT JUSTICE
3 FOR THEIR SECOND CONSECUTIVE MHSAA CLASS 7A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

4 WHEREAS, on February 27, 2025, the Tupelo High School Lady
5 Wave Girls Basketball Team won its second consecutive Class 7A
6 State Championship, defeating Starkville 62-57 in overtime.
7 Tupelo trailed by as many as 13 points in the game before rallying
8 in the second half to secure the victory; and

9 WHEREAS, in Tupelo's semifinal game against Northwest Rankin,
10 the Lady Wave had trailed early by double digits. This was a
11 similar situation Tupelo was in during the MHSAA Class 7A
12 Championship game, down nine points at halftime. That recent
13 experience led Tupelo to mount a second-half comeback and defend
14 its Class 7A state title with a 62-57 overtime win over Starkville
15 at the Mississippi Coliseum; and

16 WHEREAS, the championship win is Tupelo girls basketball's
17 first back-to-back state championship; and



18 WHEREAS, "It was a dog fight," said Tupelo Senior Jade
19 Rucker, who led Tupelo (29-4) with 22 points and 12 rebounds. "We
20 were down in the first half. We came in and we prepared ourselves
21 for moments like this." Tupelo's biggest deficit came late in the
22 second quarter, when the team trailed 20-7, trailing at halftime
23 24-15; and

24 WHEREAS, the Class 7A State Championship game marked the
25 fourth time Tupelo and Starkville faced each other this season.
26 "We knew them. They knew us. It was just whether or not we were
27 stopping them from doing what they do best," Coach Justice said.
28 "That is getting in the paint and getting rebounds. In the second
29 half, we just picked up the pace and put pressure on the ball so
30 they weren't able to set up their offense"; and

31 WHEREAS, the 2024-2025 Tupelo Girls Championship Basketball
32 Roster: Cadence Crump, Nadia Norfleet, Destiney Trice, Taylor
33 Pratt, Olivia Smith, Reese Barbles, Kinsley Sparrow, Jade Rucker,
34 Triniti Judon, Bailey Siddell, Kabreyia Garth, Kolbi Sparrow and
35 Sahyya Ragin; Head Coach Matt Justice; and Assistant Coaches
36 CheMya Carouthers and PaShonda Edwards; and

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

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
41 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the Tupelo
42 High School Lady Wave Girls Basketball Team and Head Coach Matt



43 Justice for their second consecutive MHSAA Class 7A State
44 Championship, and extend to the team, coaches, parents and
45 sponsors our best wishes for future success.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
47 Coach Matt Justice for the team, forwarded to Tupelo High School
48 Principal Melissa Thomas and the Tupelo Municipal School Board and
49 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

