

By: Senator(s) Boyd

To: Rules

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 113

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING SOUTH PANOLA HIGH  
2 SCHOOL OUTSTANDING SENIOR GABRIELLA RUSSO UPON HER RECEIPT OF THE  
3 JOURNALISM EDUCATION ASSOCIATION'S "MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL  
4 JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR" AWARD.

5 WHEREAS, this year's "Mississippi High School Journalist of  
6 the Year" is Gabriella Russo, Co-Executive Producer of *Tiger TV*  
7 Media Group at South Panola High School; and

8 WHEREAS, Gabriella is a senior at South Panola High School  
9 and serves as the *Tiger TV* Co-Executive Producer, Captain of the  
10 South Panola High School's Cross Country and Track Team, Student  
11 Council Senior Class Representative, and much more; and

12 WHEREAS, "From the moment she joined, she set herself apart  
13 with her relentless drive, creativity, and professionalism," Media  
14 Adviser Dustin Cockrell said. "Whether covering school events,  
15 producing in-depth reports, or leading her peers, she always  
16 pursued excellence. She is, without a doubt, the best journalist  
17 I have ever taught"; and

18 WHEREAS, Dustin Cockrell stepped in as the new Media Adviser  
19 for *Tiger TV* during Russo's sophomore year. Since then, the



20 program has seen exponential growth. "We've kind of built this  
21 program from the ground up," Russo said. "My sophomore year, only  
22 30 of us interviewed and for the past two years we've had over 150  
23 applications each year"; and

24 WHEREAS, Russo will now advance to the national level of the  
25 Journalism Education Association's "High School Journalist of the  
26 Year" competition, where she will compete for up to \$3,000.00 in  
27 scholarship award money. As Mississippi's top scholastic  
28 journalist, she will also headline a select group of  
29 yet-to-be-announced All-Mississippi honorees at MSPA's statewide  
30 convention on Friday, March 28, 2025, at the University of  
31 Mississippi; and

32 WHEREAS, "I was really shocked, excited, and honored to win  
33 such an award," Russo said. "This is also a big accomplishment  
34 for our entire school. It's the first time in South Panola  
35 history that anybody has won an award at MSPA"; and

36 WHEREAS, Gabriella is currently planning to attend  
37 Mississippi State University to study Biological Sciences with a  
38 pre-med concentration. She plans to become an orthopedic doctor  
39 to continue helping others. "Journalism has played such an  
40 important part of my high school education. It has taught me  
41 important leadership, communication, and people skills that I'll  
42 use for the rest of my life. Journalism has ignited a spark in me  
43 that I never knew I needed, and I can't wait to see where it takes  
44 me next," Russo said; and



45 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize an  
46 outstanding Mississippi student who has brought honor to her  
47 school, her community, and to the State of Mississippi:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
49 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate South  
50 Panola High School Outstanding Senior Gabriella Russo upon her  
51 receipt of the Journalism Education Association's "Mississippi  
52 High School Journalist of the Year" Award, and we extend our best  
53 wishes in her journalism and academic endeavors.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
55 Gabriella Russo, her class advisors, forwarded to South Panola  
56 Principal Jason Matthews and the South Panola School Board, and  
57 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

