

By: Senator(s) Burton, Frazier, King

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MS. EVELYN BENDER  
2 OF NEWTON, MISSISSIPPI, FOR HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL,  
3 COLLEGE AND PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL, AND UPON HER INDUCTION INTO  
4 THE JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME.

5 WHEREAS, Evelyn Bender, a native of Lawrence and an  
6 outstanding athlete who graduated from Newton High School and went  
7 on to play professional sports, was recognized for her  
8 accomplishments at a presentation on the basketball court at  
9 Newton High School on Friday, December 12, 2003; and

10 WHEREAS, Evelyn graduated from Newton High School in 1974,  
11 from East Central Community College in 1976 and from Jackson State  
12 University in 1979; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Bender played professional women's basketball  
14 with the Washington Metros and the New York Stars and was inducted  
15 into the Jackson State University Athletic Hall of Fame on  
16 September 27, 2002; and

17 WHEREAS, she still holds the record at East Central Community  
18 College for points scored in the fewest number of games. In 1976,  
19 when Bender was playing for East Central Community College, the  
20 girls' basketball team won the State Championship and Bender  
21 received All-State and All-Region honors; and

22 WHEREAS, Ms. Evelyn Bender has been inducted into the East  
23 Central Community College Hall of Fame. She is an active member  
24 of the Jerusalem Baptist Church; and

25 WHEREAS, one of ten children of Christine Bender and the late  
26 N.B. Bender of Lawrence, Evelyn cannot recall a time when sports  
27 was not important to her; and



28           WHEREAS, Bender graduated in 1974, so her high school  
29 basketball career began about the time the 1960s rock group, The  
30 McCoys, recorded the classic rock song "Hang on Snoopy." At  
31 ballgames, the students changed the lyrics slightly and chanted  
32 "Hang on Snoopy, Snoopy hang on" in honor of her nickname; and

33           WHEREAS, she played with the Metros in 1979-1980; after that,  
34 there was a dispersal draft and she played for the New York Stars  
35 and her team won the championship of the Professional Women's  
36 Basketball League; Bender returned to Mississippi, re-enrolled at  
37 Jackson State University and received a bachelor's degree in  
38 physical education in 1982. Returning to Newton, she began  
39 working with the Newton Municipal School District. Over the years  
40 she has been the assistant basketball coach, assistant softball  
41 and track and field coach, and has done some of everything, from  
42 driving a school bus to working as a substitute teacher; and

43           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the career  
44 of this Mississippi athlete who has brought honor to her school,  
45 her community and to the State of Mississippi:

46           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
47 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Ms. Evelyn  
48 Bender of Newton, Mississippi, for her accomplishments in high  
49 school, college and professional women's basketball, and upon the  
50 occasion of her induction into the Jackson State University  
51 Athletic Hall of Fame, we wish her continued success in her future  
52 endeavors.

53           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
54 presented to Ms. Bender and her family and be made available to  
55 the Newton Record and the Capitol Press Corps.

