

By: Senator(s) Walls, Hamilton, Browning,
Dearing, Frazier, Gordon, Hyde-Smith,
Jackson, Little, Nunnelee, Smith

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 78

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING LATOYA THOMAS ON HER STELLAR
2 COLLEGIATE BASKETBALL CAREER AND CONGRATULATING HER UPON BEING
3 SELECTED THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PLAYER OF THE YEAR FOR THE SECOND
4 CONSECUTIVE YEAR.

5 WHEREAS, LaToya Thomas, a native of Greenville, Mississippi,
6 and a Senior on the Mississippi State University Lady Bulldogs
7 Basketball Team, has had a collegiate basketball career that can
8 only be characterized as stellar; and

9 WHEREAS, LaToya Thomas was recently selected by the
10 *Associated Press* as Player of the Year for the second consecutive
11 year; and

12 WHEREAS, LaToya Thomas was also named Southeastern Conference
13 (SEC) Player of the Year by the coaches of the SEC and was the
14 first Lady Bulldog to receive this honor; and

15 WHEREAS, LaToya Thomas was a unanimous selection to the
16 All-SEC First Team; and

17 WHEREAS, LaToya Thomas has been named to the *Associated Press*
18 All-SEC Team all four years of her career; and

19 WHEREAS, LaToya Thomas is the first athlete to earn both the
20 *Associated Press* SEC Newcomer of the Year Award and the *Associated*
21 *Press* SEC Player of the Year Award in her career; and

22 WHEREAS, LaToya Thomas led the SEC in scoring for four
23 straight years and in her senior year leads with her highest
24 season average of 25.6 points per game; and

25 WHEREAS, LaToya Thomas' leadership on the floor and
26 willingness to work on all aspects of the game have placed her in
27 the top ten in many SEC categories, including scoring, offensive



28 rebounds, defensive rebounds, free-throw percentage, field goal
29 percentage and rebounding; and

30 WHEREAS, LaToya Thomas, a three-time Kodak All-American, has
31 also been named a Wade Trophy finalist, Naismith Player of the
32 Year finalist, Senior Class Award finalist and a Creamland Dairies
33 Collegiate Basketball Student Athlete of the Year semifinalist;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, LaToya Thomas' basketball exploits will be the
36 benchmark by which future players will be measured; and

37 WHEREAS, LaToya Thomas' contributions have brought the
38 women's basketball program of Mississippi State University into
39 national prominence; and

40 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Legislature to recognize the
41 athletic excellence and contributions of student athletes such as
42 LaToya Thomas, who has brought well-deserved credit to herself,
43 Mississippi State University and the State of Mississippi and who
44 has brought the MSU women's basketball program into national
45 prominence:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
47 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend LaToya Thomas for her
48 stellar basketball career and congratulate her upon her second
49 consecutive *Associated Press* Player of the Year honor.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
51 presented to LaToya Thomas and be make available to the Capitol
52 Press Corps.

