

By: Senator(s) Posey, Browning, Burton, Canon, Chamberlin, Chaney, Dawkins, Dearing, Frazier, Gordon, Harvey, Horhn, Hyde-Smith, Johnson (19th), Jordan, Little, Minor, Nunnelee, Smith, Thames, Turner

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 79

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING LEGENDARY ALCORN
2 STATE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL COACH DAVE WHITNEY, THE WINNINGEST
3 COACH IN SWAC HISTORY.

4 WHEREAS, there is no doubt that Davey L. Whitney is one of
5 the greatest names in college basketball history. His record and
6 success against tough competition speaks for itself; and

7 WHEREAS, Whitney completed 27 seasons as the Chief of the
8 Alcorn State University Braves basketball program and has set
9 standards which no other coach in Alcorn State or Southwestern
10 Athletic Conference history can match; and

11 WHEREAS, with a career record of 565 wins and 354 losses as a
12 collegiate head coach and a career record at Alcorn State of 510
13 wins and 301 losses, Whitney has spearheaded more winning seasons
14 than any of his predecessors. He was the first SWAC Coach to lead
15 his team to a victory in the NCAA Division 1 Basketball
16 Championships; and

17 WHEREAS, in July 2002, Whitney became the first-ever
18 recipient of the NCAA Hall of Champions Journey Award. This award
19 was a result of his continued success and contributions to college
20 basketball; and

21 WHEREAS, at Alcorn State University and around the nation,
22 Whitney has been affectionately nicknamed the "Wiz". His teams
23 have won twelve SWAC regular season titles, a record four
24 consecutive titles between 1978-1982. Notably his teams have
25 participated in twelve national post-season tournaments, have won
26 five NAIA District Titles and placing second and third in the
27 national tournaments during the 1970's; and



28 WHEREAS, Alcorn State basketball during the Whitney era
29 became the first historically black institution to compete in the
30 National Invitational Tournament with a 1979 bid. In one of the
31 most historical contests, the Braves defeated the Bulldogs of
32 Mississippi State University, at Starkville (80-78) before falling
33 to eventual champion Indiana University (73-69) in the second
34 round; for an encore, a Whitney-led Alcorn State Team defeated
35 South Alabama in 1980 (70-62) to become the first historically
36 black institution to win in the NCAA playoffs; and

37 WHEREAS, on December 20, 1999, Coach Whitney reached a
38 milestone in his storied career when he became part of a select
39 group of Division 1 coaches to have reached the 500-win mark
40 during their careers; and

41 WHEREAS, Alcorn State has made six trips to the NCAA
42 Tournament under Coach Whitney in 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1999 and
43 2002, in which they currently sport a 3-6 overall record. Alcorn
44 State has won its last twelve Southwestern Athletic Conference
45 regular season titles under Coach Whitney in 1973, 1976, 1979,
46 1980, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1999, 2000 and 2002; and

47 WHEREAS, Whitney has won SWAC Coach of the Year honors nine
48 times; among NCAA Division 1 men's basketball active coaches, he
49 is currently ranked 43rd in career wins, 38th in all-time career
50 victories and 60th among coaches who have won 500 career games.
51 Whitney is also ranked among active Division 1 leaders in most
52 seasons at current school (4th), most overall seasons (7th), most
53 games (10th), 20-win seasons (12th), victories (12th) and winning
54 percentage (61st); and

55 WHEREAS, his coaching ledger includes being a member of the
56 United States Olympic Coaching and Trial Selection Committee at
57 the 1984 and 1986 Olympics; and

58 WHEREAS, a graduate of Kentucky State University, Whitney
59 earned more athletic letters than any other athlete in Kentucky



60 State University history and was inducted into the Kentucky State
61 University Hall of Fame; and

62 WHEREAS, after finishing college, Whitney served in the Armed
63 Forces and later played professional baseball with the Kansas City
64 Monarchs of the Negro Baseball League as a shortstop from
65 1952-1954, started his first collegiate coaching job at Texas
66 Southern University and was also the head baseball coach at Alcorn
67 State University; Whitney is married to the former Bernice Thomas
68 of Lexington, Kentucky. They are the proud parents of Gail,
69 Danita, Lisa, Doreen and Davey, Jr.; and

70 WHEREAS, basketball has been good to Coach Whitney, and Coach
71 Whitney has been good for Mississippi, and it is with great pride
72 that we recognize the career of this sportsman who coached Alcorn
73 to SWAC dominance and brought honor to his university, his
74 community and to the State of Mississippi:

75 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
76 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate legendary
77 Alcorn State University Basketball Coach Dave Whitney, the
78 winningest coach in SWAC history, upon the occasion of his
79 retirement after 27 seasons at the helm, and extend to him and his
80 family the best wishes of the Legislature in his future endeavors.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
82 Coach Whitney and his family, the President of Alcorn State
83 University, be forwarded to the Board of Trustees of State
84 Institutions of Higher Learning and be made available to the
85 Capitol Press Corps.

