

By: Representatives Barnett, Moak

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 71

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 BROOKHAVEN ACADEMY "LADY COUGARS" GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR
3 CAPTURING THE OVERALL STATE TITLE AND FOR A 43-0 PERFECT SEASON.

4 WHEREAS, The Brookhaven Academy "Lady Cougars" Girls
5 Basketball Team and their fans celebrated after winning the
6 Mississippi Private School Association's (MPSA) Overall Tournament
7 Title with a 72-67 victory over Leake Academy on Saturday,
8 February 28, 2004, at A.E. Wood Coliseum in Clinton; and

9 WHEREAS, the large gold basketball trophy, in the middle of a
10 sea of blue, was hoisted high by the team as they received the
11 accolades of the large throng of followers, estimated at 2,700;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the Lady Cougars finished the 2003-2004 season with
14 a perfect 43-0 record, which places them in an elite group of
15 student athletes across the state; and

16 WHEREAS, this championship was the first overall title since
17 the 1983 season when the Lady Cougars prevailed after finishing
18 runners-up a week earlier in the state tournament; and

19 WHEREAS, it was the first overall title for highly successful
20 Brookhaven Academy Head Coach Barry Gray, who stated, "This team
21 has a lot of character and is a fine group of Christian young
22 ladies"; and

23 WHEREAS, Coach Gray has only one senior, Jessie Altman, in
24 his starting lineup; juniors are Kelli Byrd, Lauren Smith, Mallory
25 Logan and Kristian Davidson; sophomore Emily Langley is the top
26 reserve; and the Lady Cougars team roster is as follows: Kelli
27 Byrd, Amber Beeson, Kristian Davidson, Lauren Smith, Joy Powell,

28 Jessica Diamond, Mallory Logan, Maddie Allen, Jessie Altman, Emily
29 Langley and Allyson Pickett; and

30 WHEREAS, the championship game was a rematch of the previous
31 Class AA Tournament finals, and the Lady Cougars got a strong
32 second-half performance from Junior Center Kristian Davidson and a
33 team-high 20 points from Junior Guard Kelli Byrd; and

34 WHEREAS, the following Lady Cougars made the MPSA Overall
35 All-Tournament Team: Kelli Byrd, Jessie Altman, Lauren Smith and
36 Mallory Logan; and

37 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
38 the great team effort of this group of student athletes, who have
39 brought honor to their school, their community and to the State of
40 Mississippi:

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
42 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
43 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the Brookhaven
44 Academy "Lady Cougars" Girls Basketball Team and Coach Barry Gray
45 for winning the MPSA Overall Tournament and for their perfect 43-0
46 season, and extend to them our heartiest wishes for success in all
47 their future academic and athletic endeavors.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
49 furnished to Coach Gray and the Lady Cougars Basketball Team, the
50 Headmaster of Brookhaven Academy and to the members of the Capitol
51 Press Corps.