

By: Senator(s) Mettetal, Browning, Jackson
(11th), Michel

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 556

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 SOUTH PANOLA HIGH SCHOOL "TIGERS" FOOTBALL TEAM AND COACH RICKY
3 WOODS FOR THEIR SECOND STRAIGHT MHSAA CLASS 5A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
4 AND THEIR UNPRECEDENTED BACK-TO-BACK UNDEFEATED SEASONS.

5 WHEREAS, the No. 8 nationally ranked South Panola High School
6 "Tigers" Football Team dominated the Ocean Springs Greyhounds for
7 a second consecutive MHSAA Class 5A State Championship by a score
8 of 39-21 on Friday, December 3, 2004; and

9 WHEREAS, after losing 18 starters from the 2003 championship
10 team, this back-to-back championship meant more to the Tigers than
11 just another tournament win; and

12 WHEREAS, an estimated 15,000 fans were on hand to watch the
13 battle of the No. 8 Tigers and the underrated Greyhounds; the game
14 also drew a large television audience which witnessed team leader
15 Derek Pegues break a 5A State Championship record of 244 yards and
16 five touchdowns on runs of 32, 26, 69, 49 and 17 yards; and

17 WHEREAS, this is the fourth time in seven tries in 11 years,
18 the Tigers brought the golden football trophy home to Batesville
19 from Jackson: 11 years ago the South Panola Tigers had a 15-0
20 season capped with the 5A State Championship, in 1998 South Panola
21 capped an almost perfect season (14-1) with the State
22 Championship, and last season in 2003 the Tigers culminated a
23 perfect 15-0 season with the State Championship trophy; they have
24 been runner-up by losing the championship game three times in that
25 11-year period; and

26 WHEREAS, critics and scouts around the state and nation are
27 calling the team "The University of South Panola" or "Panola

28 State" to compliment the strength, speed and the play of the Tiger
29 team; and

30 WHEREAS, the "Tigers" are superbly coached by Head Coach
31 Ricky Woods who spoke of the attitude and the work ethic of the
32 team this past season: "We want our team to play real, real, real
33 hard. I couldn't ask for a better season, a better effort on the
34 part of all of them." South Panola assistant football coaches are
35 Arnie Oakes, Willis Wright (who led the Tigers to a perfect season
36 and State Championship 11 years ago) Lucian King, Mark Weaver,
37 Tranell Edwards, Michael Fair and John Davis; and

38 WHEREAS, the Tigers won the Region 1 Divisional and the North
39 State Championship on their way to the State Championship; and

40 WHEREAS, outstanding players on the 2004 edition of the South
41 Panola Tigers include All-American Derek Pegues; All-State Derek
42 Pegues, Josh Boren, John Jerry, Marcus Johnson and Travis Sanford;
43 All-Regional Derek Pegues, Josh Boren, John Jerry, Marcus Johnson
44 and Travis Sanford; and

45 WHEREAS, the team relied on the support of the hometown
46 crowd, on and off the field, which is especially important in
47 games on the road; and

48 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we salute the
49 championship season of this group of student athletes, who have
50 brought honor to their school, their community and to the State of
51 Mississippi:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
53 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
54 we do hereby commend and congratulate the South Panola High School
55 "Tigers" Football Team and Head Coach Ricky Woods for their second
56 consecutive MHSAA Class 5A State Championship and their 2004
57 undefeated (15-0) season, and wish them continued success in their
58 athletic and academic endeavors.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
60 Principal Dr. Del Phillips, Superintendent Dr. C.L. Stevenson,

61 Head Coach Ricky Woods for the "Tigers" and be made available to
62 the Panolian and to members of the Capitol Press Corps.