

By: Representatives Martinson, Baker (74th),  
Blackmon, Coleman (65th), Denny, Gunn, Smith  
(27th) To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 73

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE  
2 MADISON-RIDGELAND ACADEMY PATRIOTS BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAMS  
3 ON WINNING THE MISSISSIPPI PRIVATE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OVERALL  
4 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

5 WHEREAS, the Madison-Ridgeland Academy Patriots Boys and  
6 Girls Basketball Teams made history by winning the Mississippi  
7 Private School Association (MPSA) Overall State Championships; and

8 WHEREAS, the Madison-Ridgeland Academy (MRA) Patriots and  
9 Lady Patriots have never won the boys and girls MPSA Overall State  
10 Championship simultaneously in the school's history, until this  
11 outstanding victory, and the last time such a remarkable  
12 accomplishment was made in the MPSA was 26 years ago; and

13 WHEREAS, throughout their outstanding seasons, the Lady  
14 Patriots and Patriots participated in several playoffs, which  
15 included victories as the AAA Division I Champions and the AAA  
16 Champions; and

17 WHEREAS, coached by Stephen Force, the Lady Patriots had an  
18 impressive record of 39-6 for the year, and the boys who are  
19 coached by Richard Duease had an outstanding record of 36-4; and

20 WHEREAS, during the overall tournament, the Lady Patriots  
21 outscored their opponents by a combined score of 149-124, and the  
22 Patriots had a combined score of 202-142 which demonstrates the  
23 talents and skills that the team members displayed; and

24 WHEREAS, the Patriots' win in the overall tournament was made  
25 even more memorable because the boys team's head coach, Richard  
26 Duease, had undergone successful heart surgery the very day of the  
27 tournament and the team was even more inspired to win while they  
28 were skillfully guided in the tournament by Coach Ross Hailey; and

29           WHEREAS, Coach Duease and Coach Force superbly coached and  
30 inspired the Patriots and Lady Patriots and broadened the players'  
31 knowledge of the game and refined their skills in execution; and

32           WHEREAS, the MRA Patriots and Lady Patriots have developed a  
33 winning and cooperative spirit and a superb degree of  
34 sportsmanship, and their activities and attitude reflect great  
35 credit upon the individual players and their coaches and bring  
36 great honor to MRA; and

37           WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
38 recognize and commend excellence, such as the athletic superiority  
39 of the MRA Lady Patriots and Patriots, especially when displayed  
40 by the young people of our state, who are its future:

41           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
42 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
43 commend and congratulate the Madison-Ridgeland Academy Boys and  
44 Girls Basketball Teams and Coaches Duease, Hailey and Force for  
45 their outstanding 2006-2007 season, for winning the MPSA Overall  
46 Tournament State Championships and for displaying tireless  
47 devotion to their athletic endeavors.

48           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
49 furnished to Madison-Ridgeland Academy, Coaches Duease, Hailey and  
50 Force and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.