By: Representatives McGee, Akins

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 152

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING OLE MISS FRESHMAN TENNIS PLAYER DEVIN BRITTON FOR WINNING THE 2009 NCAA SINGLES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

WHEREAS, Ole Miss freshman phenom tennis player Devin Britton won the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Singles National Championship; and

WHEREAS, Devin is a native of Brandon, Mississippi, and the son of Cindy and Scott Britton, who began his tennis career at the age of four years in Hinds and Rankin Counties; and

WHEREAS, recognizing his considerable talent and athletic ability, Devin's family and coaches made it possible for him to continue his training from ages 14-17 at the IMG Tennis Academy in Florida under the renowned tennis coach, Nick Bollettieri; and

WHEREAS, Devin is the first-ever Ole Miss NCAA singles champion, and he became only the third freshman, and youngest ever at age 18 years, to win the National Championship, joining Cecil Mamiit of Southern Cal who won in 1996 and John McEnroe of Stanford who won in 1978, both of whom were 19 years of age when they won; and

WHEREAS, he became the first American-born player to win since Alex Kim of Stanford in 2000, and he became the first nonseeded player to win since Luke Smith of UNLV in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Devin showed heart and determination in fighting back after losing the first set to runner-up Steven Moneke, an Ohio State senior from Germany, and winning the championship match 3-6, 6-2, 6-3; and

WHEREAS, many consider a freshman merely qualifying for the singles tournament an impressive achievement, but Devin not only qualified, he won six straight matches against the nation's best collegiate players, four of whom he defeated in straight sets, to achieve the championship trophy; and

WHEREAS, since his enrollment at Ole Miss earlier in 2009, Devin has played the Nos. 1 and 2 singles positions for the No. 4 ranked Ole Miss Rebels, helping lead the Rebels to the Elite Eight in the team competition, and resulting in an overall individual record of 29-9 for his freshman campaign; and

WHEREAS, Devin is no stranger to high-level success, having finished runner-up in the 2008 U.S. Open Tennis Tournament in the junior singles division, which was a first for a Mississippi player; and

WHEREAS, Devin's drive and strong work ethic have led him to other tennis successes, such as winning numerous other awards including being named All-America, All-Southeastern Conference (SEC), All-SEC Freshman and 2009 Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Southeast Region Rookie of the Year; and

WHEREAS, commenting on the significance of Devin earning a national title for Ole Miss, his coach Billy Chadwick proclaimed, "It's a great day for Ole Miss and a great day for the State of Mississippi."; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to commend and congratulate Mississippi's native sons who demonstrate excellence in representing their school, their community and the State of Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Ole Miss freshman tennis player Devin Britton for winning the 2009 NCAA Singles National Championship, and we express our sincere good wishes for his future success in all his academic and athletic endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be furnished to Devin Britton, Coach Billy Chadwick and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

ST: Devin Britton; commend and congratulate for winning NCAA Singles National Championship in tennis.