

Chapter No. 2018
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EWS / KB

**HOUSE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
No. 20**

Originated in House  Clerk

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN ATHLETICS AND WELCOMING SPECIAL OLYMPIAN LORETTA CLAIBORNE TO OUR STATE.

WHEREAS, on this day, March 7, 2012, we welcome the athletes of the Special Olympics of Mississippi and Special Olympian Loretta Claiborne to our Capitol to commend their dedication and achievements in athletics; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi's Special Olympics athletes competed in numerous fields in 2011, vying for titles within their regions of the state and for the state at large; and

WHEREAS, through their participation in the Special Olympics, these spectacular individuals are afforded a unique opportunity and are encouraged to develop their skills and talents, to demonstrate courage, and to experience joy in participating in the sharing of friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community; and

WHEREAS, in Special Olympics, the emphasis is not upon physical strength, speed or endurance of the human body; but instead, it is upon the faith, spirit and determination of an individual; and

WHEREAS, the Special Olympics athletes of Mississippi are supported by numerous family members, area directors and many dedicated volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the Special Olympics are the only athletic competitions in the world where all participating athletes are winners, as they are winners in their struggle for our respect in

their diversity, winners in their struggle for self-esteem, and winners in their struggle to defend their special abilities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Claiborne is an inspiration to people from all walks of life, calling upon all people, young and old, to stand for tolerance and to overcome indifference; and

WHEREAS, a world-class runner and gifted motivational speaker, Ms. Claiborne is a Special Olympics Athlete and a person with an intellectual disability; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Claiborne has an impressive list of accolades, including: two honorary doctorate degrees from Quinnipiac University in 1995 and Villanova University in 2003, a fourth-degree black belt in Karate, the 1996 Arthur Ashe for Courage ESPY Award and a Walt Disney Productions documentary entitled *The Loretta Claiborne Story*; and

WHEREAS, as a runner, Ms. Claiborne has completed 26 marathons, recording a personal best time of three hours and three minutes, finished in the top 100 women of the Boston Marathon, and was inducted into both the Women in Sports Hall of Fame and the Special Olympics Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize and commend excellence, especially when evidenced by the citizens of this state, who are already heralded as champions among us as they display remarkable courage and ambassadorship for individuals with special needs:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN, That we do hereby welcome Ms. Loretta Claiborne to our state, commend the Special Olympics of Mississippi athletes for their outstanding achievements and extend best wishes to each for continued success in all of their future athletic endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be

furnished to the Special Olympics of Mississippi, Ms. Claiborne
and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 8, 2012



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE
February 15, 2012



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE