

**HJR278 ENROLLED**



1 HJR278  
2 11MIFLZ-2  
3 By Representatives Faulkner, Carns  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 19-Mar-26



## HJR278 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3 COMMENDING SAMFORD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE  
4 2026 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP.

5

6 WHEREAS, highest commendations are herein proudly  
7 presented to the Samford University Women's Basketball Team  
8 on winning the Southern Conference Tournament Championship  
9 and securing a spot in the NCAA Tournament; and

10 WHEREAS, the Samford women's basketball team rallied  
11 from an early double-digit deficit to defeat top-seeded  
12 University of Tennessee at Chattanooga 72-67; and

13 WHEREAS, Chattanooga raced out to a 14-3 lead in the  
14 first quarter, but Samford found its footing behind a  
15 barrage of three-pointers, closing the opening period  
16 trailing by just three; the Samford Bulldogs tightened up  
17 defensively in the second quarter, holding Chattanooga to  
18 seven points while moving in front 35-27 at halftime; and

19 WHEREAS, in the third quarter, Samford's offense  
20 exploded for 19 points, building a 13-point advantage;  
21 Chattanooga mounted a late charge, but Samford sank 12 of 13  
22 free throws, including two crucial makes from Briana Rivera  
23 in the final seconds, to seal the win; and

24 WHEREAS, freshman Kaylee Yarbrough delivered a career  
25 performance on the big stage, scoring 25 points off the  
26 bench and matching her season high with five made  
27 three-pointers; Francie Morris added 22 points and six  
28 rebounds in a career-high 35 minutes, securing her the title



## HJR278 Enrolled

29 of MVP; and Sierra Godbolt chipped in 12 points, five  
30 rebounds, and three assists across a season-high 40 minutes;  
31 and

32 WHEREAS, the talented athletes on the Samford Women's  
33 Basketball Team are Jada Knight, Avary Brewer, Kaylee  
34 Yarbrough, Camryn Register, Francie Morris, Aubrey  
35 Blankenship, Briana Rivera, Carla Baguda, Alyssa Tarpley,  
36 Sydney Martin, Sierra Godbolt, Yael Maayan, Martha Bishop,  
37 and Emily Snoddy; and

38 WHEREAS, the Samford team has been coached and  
39 inspired by Head Coach Matt Wise; Assistant Coaches Hannah  
40 Barber, Charity Brown, and Sally Higgins; as well as  
41 Assistant Coach and Director of Basketball Operations Walker  
42 Martin; Graduate Assistant Diego Medellin; Assistant  
43 Athletic Trainer Lauren Talton; and Assistant Sports  
44 Performance Coach John Kennington; and

45 WHEREAS, this victory marks Samford's first Southern  
46 Conference title under Head Coach Matt Wise, who wins the  
47 championship in his debut season; Samford (16-18) became the  
48 first No. 6 seed to win the Southern Conference Women's  
49 Tournament Championship since 1999, and only the 12th team  
50 in NCAA history to qualify for the tournament with a losing  
51 record; now therefore,

52 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
53 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Samford University Women's  
54 Basketball Team and coaches are highly honored and commended  
55 on winning the Southern Conference Tournament Championship  
56 and for securing a spot in the NCAA Tournament, and we



## HJR278 Enrolled

57 hereby dedicate this resolution to them in utmost  
58 admiration, along with best wishes for success in the  
59 tournament.



**HJR278 Enrolled**

60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94

---

Speaker of the House of Representatives

---

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was passed by the House 01-Apr-26.

John Treadwell  
Clerk

Senate

---

**09-Apr-26**

---

Adopted