

HJR278 INTRODUCED



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



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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, freshman Kaylee Yarbrough delivered a career
performance on the big stage, scoring 25 points off the
bench and matching her season high with five made



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29 three-pointers; Francie Morris added 22 points and six
30 rebounds in a career-high 35 minutes, securing her the title
31 of MVP; and Sierra Godbolt chipped in 12 points, five
32 rebounds, and three assists across a season-high 40 minutes;
33 and

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

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

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

54 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
55 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Samford University Women's
56 Basketball Team and coaches are highly honored and commended



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57 on winning the Southern Conference Tournament Championship
58 and for securing a spot in the NCAA Tournament, and we
59 hereby dedicate this resolution to them in utmost
60 admiration, along with best wishes for success in the
61 tournament.