

By: Farris, King, Hyde-Smith, Williamson,
Dawkins

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 547
(As Adopted by House and Senate)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI GOLDEN EAGLES FOOTBALL TEAM FOR
3 ITS OUTSTANDING 1999 SEASON AND IMPRESSIVE VICTORY IN THE 1999
4 LIBERTY BOWL.

5 WHEREAS, defense wins championships, and the University of
6 Southern Mississippi's 1999 Golden Eagles Football team's defense
7 shut down Colorado State University in the 1999 Liberty Bowl
8 resulting in a 23-17 victory which was the culmination of a season
9 with the highest final ranking in school history;

10 WHEREAS, here are the achievements of the Southern
11 Mississippi Football Team in 1999:

12 Coach Jeff Bower was named the Conference USA Coach
13 of the Year for the second time;

14 Adalius Thomas was named Conference USA's Defensive
15 Player of the Year for the second straight season and
16 has been named to six All-American teams in 1999;

17 The Golden Eagles placed five players on Conference USA's
18 First Team (Shederick Blackmon, Cedric Scott, Adalius Thomas, T.J.
19 Slaughter and Leo Barnes); six players on Conference USA's Second
20 Team (Derrick Nix, Sherrod Gideon, Todd Pinkston, DeQuincy Scott,
21 Ty Trahan, Terrance Parrish) and five players on Conference USA's
22 All-Freshman Team (Zeb Landers, Torrin Tucker, Buck Miciotto, Joe
23 Henley and Jeremy Bridges);

24 Southern Miss quarterback Jeff Kelly finished the year with
25 21 touchdown passes which was second behind Lee Roberts and ahead
26 of Brett Favre on the USM single season list;

27 Southern Miss finished the bowl season with its highest final

28 ranking in school history at No. 13 in the ESPN/USA Today Coaches
29 Top 25 Poll;

30 Southern Miss running back Derrick Nix became the first
31 sophomore in Southern Miss history to rush for 1,000 or more yards
32 in his first two seasons. He is only the second USM running back
33 to record consecutive 1,000 yard seasons;

34 Southern Miss wide receiver Sherrod Gideon finished his
35 Golden Eagle career as the school's leader in receptions (193),
36 receiving yardage (3,215) and touchdown receptions (30);

37 Southern Miss' Adalius Thomas is the school's all-time leader
38 in quarterback sacks with 34.5;

39 Southern Miss' defense held No. 2 ranked Nebraska to its
40 lowest yardage output since the 1993 season and held the Huskers
41 to eight first downs, their lowest total since the 1968 season;

42 Southern Miss was named the USA Today Team of the Week after
43 the Golden Eagles' 39-22 victory over No. 16 East Carolina on
44 October 9;

45 Southern Miss was perfect at home this season with a 5-0
46 record;

47 Southern Miss had six players named Conference USA Player of
48 the Week during the season: Roy Magee, T.J. Slaughter, Leo
49 Barnes, Adalius Thomas, Ty Trahan and Brant Hanna;

50 Southern Miss' defense finished the year ranked eighth in the
51 nation in total defense;

52 Adalius Thomas was named the Liberty Bowl's Most Valuable
53 Player and the game's Most Valuable Defensive Player, while
54 quarterback Jeff Kelly was named the Liberty Bowl Offensive MVP;

55 Southern Miss is sending a school record five players to play
56 in the Delchamp's Senior Bowl, college football's most prestigious
57 all-star game. Those players are Adalius Thomas, Todd Pinkston,
58 Terrance Parrish, Sherrod Gideon and T.J. Slaughter;

59 Adalius Thomas was named the Bronko Nagurski National Defensive
60 Player of the Week for his performance on October 23 against

61 Cincinnati;

62 Southern Miss won its third Conference USA Championship in
63 four seasons;

64 Southern Miss played in its third consecutive bowl game, a
65 school record for consecutive bowl appearances;

66 Southern Miss improved to a perfect 2-0 in the Liberty Bowl;
67 and

68 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
69 talented group of student athletes who have brought great honor to
70 their university, their community and to the State of Mississippi:

71 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
72 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
73 we do hereby commend and congratulate the University of Southern
74 Mississippi Golden Eagles Football Team for its outstanding 1999
75 season and impressive victory in the 1999 Liberty Bowl, and wish
76 this team and these athletes continued success in their future
77 academic, athletic and life endeavors.

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
79 presented to Coach Jeff Bower and the 1999 Golden Eagles Football
80 Team, and that copies be forwarded to the President of the
81 University of Southern Mississippi and the Board of Trustees of
82 Institutions of Higher Learning and be made available to the
83 Capitol Press Corps.