

By: Senator(s) Dearing, Carlton, Simmons,  
Furniss, Gordon, Huggins, Posey, Gollott,  
Canon, Burton, Williamson, Carmichael, Hyde-  
Smith, Robertson, Chamberlin, Dawkins, Kirby,  
White (29th), Frazier, Harden, Moffatt, Ross,  
Farris, Tollison, Horhn, Dickerson, Little, Mettetal, Browning, Lee,  
Nunnelee, Hewes

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 511

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING  
2 VERSATILE DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY QUARTERBACK JOSH BRIGHT FOR  
3 LEADING HIS TEAM TO THE NCAA DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AND  
4 FOR WINNING THE PRESTIGIOUS CONERLY TROPHY.

5 WHEREAS, versatile quarterback Josh Bright of Batesville,  
6 Mississippi, led his Delta State University "Fighting Okra"  
7 football team to the NCAA Division II National Championship,  
8 overcoming the odds to bury Bloomsburg State 63-34 in the  
9 championship game in Florence, Alabama; and

10 WHEREAS, Bright, a Batesville native, has accounted for 2,456  
11 yards and 29 touchdowns in leading Delta State, 14-1, to a share  
12 of the Gulf South Conference championship; and

13 WHEREAS, "Josh has been a tremendous asset to us," Delta  
14 State Coach Steve Campbell said. "He's meant the world to our  
15 team this year. I think his athletic ability and his numbers  
16 speak for themselves. He has tremendous character, and he's been  
17 a leader on and off the field. Josh would be a tremendous  
18 football player at any level. He's got good speed and he's so  
19 strong. Sometimes you think option quarterback and you think of a  
20 small guy, a guy you can grab by the jersey and sling him down.  
21 You're not going to do that to Josh. You'd better hit him head  
22 on"; and

23 WHEREAS, Bright, 6 feet 5, 230 pounds, is the first  
24 quarterback in Mississippi to pass and run for 1,000 yards in a  
25 season since Reggie Collier in 1981; and

26           WHEREAS, Josh Bright is a whiz at running the option, so he  
27 knows a thing or two about when to keep the football and when to  
28 pitch it; and

29           WHEREAS, Bright got his hands on another piece of valuable  
30 hardware - the Fifth Annual Conerly Trophy - presented by NFL Hall  
31 of Famer Frank Gifford, and recognizes the Delta State junior  
32 quarterback as the best college football player in Mississippi;  
33 and

34           WHEREAS, Bright is the first quarterback to win the Conerly  
35 Trophy since Ole Miss' Stewart Patridge in 1997. He's also the  
36 second Division II player to win the award, joining former Delta  
37 State running back Tregnel Thomas, who won the inaugural award in  
38 1996; and

39           WHEREAS, "It's been an awesome season." Bright said. "I'd  
40 like to thank my teammates - without them I wouldn't be here. I  
41 had great players all over the field with me"; and

42           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the  
43 singular achievement of this student-athlete, who has brought  
44 honor to his university, his community and to the State of  
45 Mississippi:

46           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
47 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
48 we do hereby commend and congratulate versatile Delta State  
49 University Junior Quarterback Josh Bright for leading his team to  
50 the NCAA Division II National Championship and for winning the  
51 prestigious Conerly Trophy, and wish him continued success in his  
52 future athletic and scholastic endeavors.

53           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
54 presented to Josh Bright and Delta State Coach Steve Campbell, and  
55 be forwarded to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of  
56 Higher Learning and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.