

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Michel, Chamberlin To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 611

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI "OLE MISS REBELS" FOOTBALL TEAM, COACH
3 DAVID CUTCLIFFE AND QUARTERBACK ELI MANNING FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING
4 2003 SEASON, FOR WINNING THE SEC WESTERN DIVISION TITLE AND FOR
5 WINNING THE 2004 COTTON BOWL CLASSIC IN DALLAS, TEXAS.

6 WHEREAS, 2003 was a landmark year in the history of "Ole Miss
7 Rebel" Football; and

8 WHEREAS, Ole Miss finished the 2003 football season with a
9 10-3 overall record, which included a 7-1 mark in the Southeastern
10 Conference, as the Rebels shared the SEC Western Division title
11 with BCS National Champion LSU; and

12 WHEREAS, Ole Miss defeated Oklahoma State, 31-28, in the 2004
13 SBC Cotton Bowl Classic in Dallas, Texas, as quarterback Eli
14 Manning was selected Offensive Player of the Game and defensive
15 lineman Josh Cooper was named Defensive Player of the Game.

16 Defensive back Wes Scott received the Scholar-Athlete Award; and

17 WHEREAS, the 2004 SBC Cotton Bowl Classic marked Ole Miss'
18 31st all-time bowl appearance, tying the Rebels with Florida for
19 15th on the NCAA Division 1-A's all-time list of bowl appearances
20 and the victory over Oklahoma State left the Rebels with a 19-12
21 bowl record, which ties for 10th on the NCAA Division 1-A's list
22 for bowl victories. In the final national polls, Ole Miss was
23 ranked No. 13 by The Associated Press, No. 14 by USA Today/ESPN
24 and No. 14 by the FWAA Grantland Rice Super 16 board; and

25 WHEREAS, Head Coach David Cutcliffe was named Southeastern
26 Conference Coach of the Year by the SEC Coaches and Co-Coach of
27 the Year by the Associated Press. He was also selected NCAA

28 Division 1-A Region 2 Coach of the Year by the American Football
29 Coaches Association; and

30 WHEREAS, Quarterback Eli Manning and kicker Jonathan Nichols
31 both earned first team All-American honors, while Manning,
32 Nichols, wide receiver Chris Collins, offensive guard Doug Buckles
33 and defensive tackle Jesse Mitchell were named first team All-SEC
34 and punter Cody Ridgeway made the All-SEC second team; and

35 WHEREAS, Quarterback Eli Manning received the Maxwell Award
36 as the nation's top player, the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award as
37 the nation's top senior quarterback and the Conerly Trophy as
38 Mississippi's Player of the Year. He was also a finalist for the
39 Heisman trophy, finishing third, was selected as Mississippi's
40 Amateur Athlete of the Year by the Jackson Touchdown Club, was
41 chosen as the 2003 Sports Person of the Year in Mississippi by The
42 Clarion-Ledger, and received the Colonel Earl (Red) Blaik
43 Leadership Award from the All-America Football Foundation. Eli
44 was named Southeastern Conference Player of the Year, the SEC
45 Offensive Player of the Year, the Birmingham Monday Morning
46 Quarterback Club's SEC Most Valuable Back and the Touchdown Club
47 of Atlanta Southeast's Top Offensive Back, while kicker Jonathan
48 Nichols was named SEC Special Teams Player of the Year. Eli was
49 named one of the NCAA's Today's Top VIII student-athletes, the
50 highest honor the NCAA presents to student-athletes, and also
51 received the 2003 Sporting News Radio Socrates Award, which
52 recognizes a collegiate student-athlete who demonstrates
53 excellence in academics, athletics and citizenship; and

54 WHEREAS, Kicker Jonathan Nichols received the Lou Groza Award
55 as the nation's top kicker. Linebacker Jamil Northcutt was named
56 to the American Football Coaches Association Good Works Team and
57 quarterback Eli Manning was named to the Southeastern Conference
58 Good Works Team. Wide receiver Chris Collins participated in the
59 East-West Shrine Classic; and

60 WHEREAS, as a team, Ole Miss led the Southeastern Conference
61 in scoring offense (34.0), pass offense (286.0), kickoff returns
62 (23.7), total offense (433.2), punting (39.0), pass efficiency
63 (150.7), third down conversions (45.6), red zone offense (90.0),
64 field goals (.862) and PAT kicking (1.000). Ole Miss broke
65 single-season school records for first downs (295), total points
66 scored (442) and total offensive yards per game (433.2); and

67 WHEREAS, Quarterback Eli Manning led the Southeastern
68 Conference in passing average per game (276.9) and total offense
69 (274.8), while wide receiver Chris Collins led the SEC in pass
70 receptions per game (5.92) and kicker Jonathan Nichols led the SEC
71 in scoring per game (9.5), scoring by kicking 9.5, field goal
72 percentage (86.2) and PAT kicking percentage (100.0). Quarterback
73 Eli Manning, who set 47 Ole Miss single-game, season and career
74 records became the fifth quarterback in SEC history to throw for
75 10,000 yards in a career as he finished with 10,119 passing yards,
76 ranking fifth on the SEC's all-time list; and

77 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the stellar
78 accomplishments of this group of student athletes who have brought
79 honor to their university, their community and to the State of
80 Mississippi:

81 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
82 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
83 we do hereby commend and congratulate the University of
84 Mississippi "Ole Miss Rebels" Football Team, Coach David Cutcliffe
85 and award-winning Quarterback Eli Manning for their outstanding
86 2003 season, for winning the SEC Western Division Title and for
87 winning the 2004 Cotton Bowl Classic in Dallas, Texas, and extend
88 the best wishes of the Legislature on their future successes.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
90 Coach Cutcliffe and the 2003 Ole Miss Football Team, be forwarded
91 to Chancellor Robert Khayat and be made available to the Capitol
92 Press Corps.