

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE  
2 DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY STATESMEN BASEBALL TEAM UPON ITS  
3 OUTSTANDING 2003-2004 SEASON AND WINNING THE 2004 NATIONAL COLLEGE  
4 ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, the Delta State University Statesmen Baseball Team  
6 had an outstanding year, finishing the 2003-2004 season with a  
7 remarkable record of 54 wins and only 11 losses; and

8 WHEREAS, showcasing immense talent, the Statesmen have  
9 brought great honor and pride to Delta State University by winning  
10 the 2004 National College Athletic Association Division (NCAA) II  
11 National Championship, the team's first national championship  
12 after nine College World Series appearances, five third place and  
13 two runners-up finishes; and

14 WHEREAS, the Statesmen's dream became reality Saturday, May  
15 29, 2004, as Delta State defeated Grand Valley State 12-8 before a  
16 crowd of 2,428 spectators at Paterson Field, and thus standing as  
17 a testament to tenacity and persistence; and

18 WHEREAS, not only has this been a long awaited treasure for  
19 the Statesmen Team, but legend and founder of Delta State  
20 baseball, Boo Ferris, has cherished the day the Statesmen would  
21 earn a national championship title; and

22 WHEREAS, directly synonymous with Delta State baseball, Boo  
23 Ferris, who carved out the foundation for Delta State's baseball  
24 program and coached the first Statesmen Team 40 years ago, watched  
25 in awe and excitement as the Statesmen journeyed their way to  
26 victory, and shared in the grandeur of the historical moment when  
27 presented the championship trophy by Mike Kinnison, Delta State's  
28 Head Coach; and

29           WHEREAS, for their superior play, many individual honors have  
30 been bestowed on several members of the Statesmen Team, including  
31 the naming of Jud Thigpen and Chris Reed to the Rawlings/ABCA  
32 All-America First Team; the naming of Mark Broome to the  
33 Rawlings/ABCA All-America Second Team; the selection of Jud  
34 Thigpen, Chris Reed, Craig Newton and Mark Broome to the  
35 Rawlings/ABCA All-South Central Region First Team; the selection  
36 of Josh Barton to the Rawlings/ABCA All-South Central Region  
37 Second Team; the naming of Mark Broome, Eric Patten, Jud Thigpen  
38 and Matt McAlpin to the All-Gulf South Conference First Team; the  
39 naming of Craig Newton, Clay Smith, Chris Reed and Josh Barton to  
40 the All-Gulf South Conference Second Team; the naming of Bert  
41 Pickard as Gulf South Conference Player of the Week; and

42           WHEREAS, additional honors and recognitions include the  
43 selection of Matt McAlpin as Gulf South Conference Pitcher of the  
44 Week; the naming of Bert Pickard as NCAA Division II Championship  
45 Tournament MVP; the selection of Bert Pickard, Craig Newton and  
46 Scott Ellison to the NCAA Division II Championship All-Tournament  
47 Team; the naming of Will Waldkirch as NCAA South Central Region  
48 Tournament MVP; the selection of Will Waldkirch, Craig Newton,  
49 Eric Patten, Jud Thigpen and Josh Barton to the South Central  
50 Region All-Tournament Team; the naming of Mark Broome as Gulf  
51 South Conference Tournament MVP; and the selection of Mark Broome,  
52 Clay Smith, Chris Reed, Brad Lightsey and Jud Thigpen to the Gulf  
53 South Conference All-Tournament Team; and

54           WHEREAS, Jud Thigpen, who set a Delta State single-season  
55 record with 112 hits, became the first Statesman to accumulate  
56 more than 100 hits with 261 at-bats, was named Rawlings/ABCA  
57 Division II Player of the Year, Rawlings/ABCA South Central Region  
58 Player of the Year and Gulf South Conference Player of the Week;  
59 and

60           WHEREAS, the Statesmen have been superbly coached and  
61 inspired this season by Coach Mike Kinnison, who has broadened the

62 players' knowledge of the game and refined their skills in  
63 execution; and

64 WHEREAS, Coach Kinnison, whose career record now stands at  
65 370-96, giving him the best winning percentage among NCAA baseball  
66 coaches with at least five years of head coaching experience, has  
67 brought additional honor and pride to himself and to Delta State  
68 University upon being named Coach of the Year for Rawlings/ABCA  
69 Division II, Rawlings/ABCA South Central Region and Gulf South  
70 Conference; and

71 WHEREAS, the Statesmen have developed a winning and  
72 cooperative spirit and a high degree of sportsmanship, and their  
73 activities and attitude reflect great credit upon the individual  
74 players and their coach, and bring honor to Delta State  
75 University; and

76 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
77 and commend excellence, especially when evidenced by the youth of  
78 our state who are its future:

79 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
80 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
81 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the Delta  
82 State University Statesmen Baseball Team and its coach for an  
83 outstanding 2003-2004 season, for winning the NCAA Division II  
84 National Championship and for displaying tireless devotion to its  
85 athletic endeavors.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
87 furnished to Delta State University, Head Coach Mike Kinnison, Boo  
88 Ferris and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.