

By: Senator(s) Little, Dearing, To: Rules
Clarke, Burton, Butler,
Chamberlin, Gordon, Jackson
(11th), Mettetal, Nunnelee,
Posey, Walls

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 19

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE DELTA STATE
2 UNIVERSITY "STATESMEN" BASEBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH MIKE KINNISON
3 FOR WINNING THEIR FIRST EVER NCAA DIVISION II WORLD SERIES.

4 WHEREAS, the Delta State University "Statesmen" Baseball
5 Team, in their third-ever trip to the NCAA Division II
6 Championship final game (1968, 1978, 2004), are the 2004 NCAA
7 Division II National Champions; and

8 WHEREAS, in their third time to the NCAA Division II
9 Championship game, Coach Mike Kinnison's Statesmen emerged
10 victorious, taking a 12-8 victory over Grand Valley (Michigan)
11 State University to clinch Delta State's first-ever baseball
12 national championship; and

13 WHEREAS, Matt McAlpin (10-1) picked up the win for the
14 Statesmen, throwing 6-1/3 innings and scattering 9 hits, allowing
15 6 runs, 4 earned. Scott Ellison picked up the save after 1-2/3
16 innings of relief. Bert Pickard was named tournament MVP, and was
17 joined on the All-Tournament Team by teammates Craig Newton and
18 Scott Ellison; and

19 WHEREAS, the Delta State University Statesmen finished the
20 2004 Championship season with a new record of 54 wins against 11
21 losses, under the leadership of Head Coach Mike Kinnison (DSU,
22 1978), Assistant Coach Rodney Batts, Graduate Assistants Rick
23 McCarty, Andy Dillard, and Jeff Price, Managers Gary Hayes and
24 Ryan Robertson and Trainer Jason Miller; and

25 WHEREAS, the following individual and team honors were earned
26 by this championship squad:

27 • Rawlings/ABCA Division II Coach of the Year:

28 Mike Kinnison
29 Rawlings/ABCA South Central Region Coach of the Year:
30 Mike Kinnison
31 Gulf South Conference Coach of the Year:
32 Mike Kinnison
33 • Rawlings/ABCA Division II Player of the Year:
34 Jud Thigpen
35 Rawlings/ABCA South Central Region Player of the Year:
36 Jud Thigpen
37 • Rawlings/ABCA All-America (First Team): Jud Thigpen,
38 Chris Reed
39 Rawlings/ABCA All-America (Second Team): Mark Broome
40 • Rawlings/ABCA All-South Central Region (First Team):
41 Jud Thigpen, Chris Reed, Craig Newton, Mark Broome
42 Rawlings/ABCA All-South Central Region (Second Team):
43 Josh Barton
44 • All-Gulf South Conference (First Team):
45 Mark Broome, Eric Patten, Jud Thigpen, Matt McAlpin
46 All-Gulf South Conference (Second Team):
47 Craig Newton, Clay Smith, Chris Reed, Josh Barton
48 • NCAA Division II Championship Tournament MVP:
49 Bert Pickard
50 NCAA Division II Championship All-Tournament Team:
51 Bert Pickard, Scott Ellison, Craig Newton
52 • NCAA South Central Region Tournament MVP: Will Waldkirch
53 NCAA South Central Region All-Tournament Team:
54 Will Waldkirch, Craig Newton, Eric Patten, Jud Thigpen,
55 Josh Barton
56 • Gulf South Conference Tournament MVP: Mark Broome
57 Gulf South Conference All-Tournament Team:
58 Mark Broome, Clay Smith, Chris Reed, Brad Lightsey,
59 Jud Thigpen

60 • Jud Thigpen set a DSU single-season record with his 112
61 hits. Thigpen became the first Statesman to rack up over 100
62 hits in a season. Thigpen's other record set this year is
63 at-bats (261).

64 • This season marked Delta State's ninth appearance in the
65 NCAA Division II Baseball Championship Tournament, and their
66 third appearance in the Title game.

67 • Coach Mike Kinnison's 370-96 career record (.794) gives
68 him the best winning percentage among NCAA baseball coaches
69 with at least five years of head coaching experience; and

70 WHEREAS, forty years ago, legendary Delta State Coach Boo
71 Ferriss carved a baseball diamond out of a Delta beanfield with a
72 vision for a national championship; he, along with dozens of
73 former Statesmen, watched this persistent group of student
74 athletes bring honor to their university, the Delta State family,
75 their community and to the State of Mississippi:

76 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
77 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the Delta
78 State University "Statesmen" Baseball Team and Head Coach Mike
79 Kinnison for winning their first ever NCAA Division II World
80 Series, and extend the best wishes of the Senate to the future
81 success of this team.

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
83 the Delta Statesmen Baseball Team, Coach Mike Kinnison and former
84 Coach Boo Ferriss, be forwarded to the President of Delta State
85 University and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.