

By: Senator(s) Clarke, Dearing, Little To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 20

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DELTA STATE
2 UNIVERSITY BASEBALL COACH MIKE KINNISON FOR BEING HONORED AS THE
3 NCAA DIVISION II COACH OF THE YEAR FOLLOWING HIS TEAM'S FIRST
4 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, Delta State University Baseball Coach Mike Kinnison
6 has been honored as the NCAA Division II "Coach of the Year" by
7 the American Baseball Coaches Association and Rawlings Sports
8 Company, following his team's first Division II National
9 Championship; and

10 WHEREAS, as his Statesmen celebrated the victory over Grand
11 Valley (Michigan) State on May 29, 2004, Coach Kinnison climbed
12 over the dugout and into the stands to present the trophy to Delta
13 State legend Boo Ferriss, then handed it to his championship
14 players; and

15 WHEREAS, in the fall of 1976, Mike Kinnison returned to Delta
16 State thinking he would be team manager, but Coach Ferriss gave
17 him a uniform. Kinnison helped Ferriss' 1977 and 1978 teams reach
18 the Division II College World Series, making All-American as a
19 senior; and

20 WHEREAS, Mike Kinnison is in his ninth season at the helm of
21 the Delta State baseball program. His 370-96 career record (.794)
22 gives him the best wining percentage among NCAA baseball coaches
23 with at least five years of head coaching experience; and

24 WHEREAS, since taking over the program in 1997, Kinnison has
25 kept the proud tradition of Delta State baseball alive. The
26 former Delta State All-American has accomplished so much in his
27 nine seasons, leading the Statesmen to the 2000, 2003 and 2004
28 Gulf South Conference (GSC) Tournament titles, eight GSC West

29 Division crowns, three South Central Regional Championships, three
30 NCAA Division II Baseball Championship Tournament appearances and
31 one World Series Championship; and

32 WHEREAS, Kinnison reached the 300 win plateau in seven
33 seasons and was named the South Central Region's "Coach of the
34 Year" in 2001 and 2002; and

35 WHEREAS, prior to succeeding Bill Marchant, Kinnison served
36 as an assistant coach for three years. He played a key role in
37 guiding the Statesmen to World Series berths and GSC Championships
38 in 1994 and 1996; and

39 WHEREAS, the Benton, Mississippi, native was standout at
40 Delta State under Coach "Boo" Ferriss from 1977-1978. He ranks
41 11th all-time in doubles (36) and holds single season records in
42 at-bats (233), doubles (25) and games played (62). Kinnison
43 recorded a .343 batting average with 25 doubles and 56 RBI as the
44 catalyst, who sparked a second-place finish in the 1978 Division
45 II College World Series; and

46 WHEREAS, before returning to his alma mater, Kinnison coached
47 in the high school ranks at Lee Academy (1979-1981), Jackson Prep
48 (1982-1992) and Madison Central (1993). His prep coaching record
49 is 292-82 (.779) with state titles at Jackson Prep in 1982, 1990
50 and 1991. He earned his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Match
51 Education from Delta State in 1977 and 1978, respectively; and

52 WHEREAS, Kinnison is married to the former Cindy Colbert of
53 Grenada, Mississippi. They are the parents of two daughters, Mary
54 Claire and Kate; and

55 WHEREAS, Boo Ferriss said he has never seen a coach work
56 harder than Coach Kinnison: "This championship is the pinnacle.
57 I'm so happy for everybody who loves Delta State, but happiest of
58 all for Mike Kinnison," who has brought honor to his university,
59 his community and to the State of Mississippi:

60 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
61 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Delta

62 State University Baseball Coach Mike Kinnison who has been honored
63 as the NCAA Division II "Coach of the Year" following his teams
64 national championship victory, and extend to him and his family
65 the best wishes of the Senate on their future seasons.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
67 Coach Kinnison and his family and be made available to the
68 President of Delta State University and the Capitol Press Corps.