

By: Senator(s) Dearing, Clarke,
Little, Browning, Burton,
Chamberlin, Frazier, Gordon,
Jackson (11th), Kirby, Mettetal,
Posey

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 21

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DELTA STATE
2 UNIVERSITY CENTER FIELDER JUD THIGPEN, NATIONAL DIVISION II
3 "PLAYER OF THE YEAR."

4 WHEREAS, Delta State University's Jud Thigpen's dream came
5 true on May 29, 2004, as the Statesmen defeated Grand Valley
6 (Michigan) State 12-8 to claim the program's first national
7 championship; and

8 WHEREAS, for his efforts in the tournament and the entire
9 championship season, Center Fielder Jud Thigpen was named NCAA
10 Division II National Player of the Year; and

11 WHEREAS, Jud was not supposed to be big enough to play
12 college baseball, but became one of Delta State's greatest
13 sluggers ever, hitting .423, leading the Statesmen with 13 home
14 runs, 16 doubles, 62 RBIs and a slugging percentage of .716. Jud
15 Thigpen set a DSU single-season record with 112 hits, became the
16 first Statesmen to rack up over 100 hits in a season, and set an
17 at-bats record of 261; and

18 WHEREAS, in the title game, Jud robbed Grand Valley hitters
19 with two fabulous, running catches; and

20 WHEREAS, to Jud's father, Judson Thigpen of Cleveland,
21 Mississippi, this championship was special because he played with
22 DSU Coach Mike Kinnison on the last Delta State team to reach the
23 national championship game back in 1978. The father watched his
24 son, the National Player of the Year, help this team achieve what
25 his team could not achieve 26 years earlier; and

26 WHEREAS, Jud Thigpen, the slugger, is the son of Judson
27 Thigpen the pitcher. This is about two generations of Thigpens

28 who have helped Delta State reach the Division II College World
29 Series; and

30 WHEREAS, before that, Jud's grandfather, Judson's dad, grew
31 up in Shaw, where he knew Boo Ferriss as a youngster. Boo Ferriss,
32 the former coach, is the patriarch of the Delta State baseball
33 family; and

34 WHEREAS, congratulating Jud Thigpen following this landmark
35 game were former Delta State players such as Barry Lyons and Chris
36 Burgess, who emotionally explained the significance of this
37 championship to the Delta State family; and

38 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the special
39 moment of this championship Mississippi baseball player, who along
40 with his teammates achieved what former Statesmen could not, and
41 bring honor to his university, his community and to the State of
42 Mississippi:

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
44 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Delta
45 State University Center Fielder Jud Thigpen, honored for being
46 named NCAA Division II National Player of the Year following his
47 team's national championship, and extend to Jud and his family the
48 best wishes of the Senate for future success both on and off the
49 field.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
51 Jud Thigpen and his family, be forwarded to Coach Mike Kinnison
52 and the President of Delta State University, and be made available
53 to the Capitol Press Corps.