

By: Representatives Fillingane, Scott,
Bentz, Davis, Dedeaux, Holland, Lane, Lott,
Peranich, Read, Simpson, Smith (59th),
Walley, Weathersby, Patterson

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 115

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING COACH
2 JEFF BOWER FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SUCCESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENT AS
3 HEAD COACH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI GOLDEN EAGLES
4 FOOTBALL TEAM.

5 WHEREAS, Jeff Bower, the head coach of the University of
6 Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles Football Team, recently
7 completed his 15th season as head football coach at USM, which is
8 the second longest tenure at the school after Thad "Pie" Vann; and

9 WHEREAS, Coach Bower ranks second in the nation for years
10 coached by an active coach at his alma mater, ranks fifth in the
11 nation in years coached by an active coach at one institution, and
12 he is the dean of coaches in Conference USA, being the only coach
13 in the conference who has coached during each year of the league
14 since its formation in 1996; and

15 WHEREAS, Coach Bower has led the Golden Eagles to seven or
16 more victories nine times in the past 10 years, one of only 12
17 teams in the nation to do so, and he won his 100th career victory
18 with the win over UAB on October 21, 2005, making him the 20th
19 active coach in the nation to accomplish that feat; and

20 WHEREAS, under Coach Bower's leadership, USM has won an
21 unprecedented four Conference USA championships, in 1996, 1997,
22 1999 and 2003, and it is the only school in the conference to have
23 posted three undefeated league records, including an 8-0 record in
24 2003; and

25 WHEREAS, Coach Bower has been honored several times for his
26 outstanding success in Conference USA, being selected as
27 Conference USA Coach of the Year an unprecedented three times, in

28 1996, 1999 and 2003, and being named as the conference Coach of
29 the Decade in 2004; and

30 WHEREAS, Coach Bower's Golden Eagles have earned 42
31 All-American honors, including at least one All-American being
32 named in each of the past nine years and seven Freshman
33 All-American honors in the past 10 years, and he has coached seven
34 Conference USA Defensive Player of the Year selections; and

35 WHEREAS, the Golden Eagles of Coach Bower were honored for
36 the third year in a row by the American Football Coaches
37 Association for producing a graduation rate of 70% or better, one
38 of only 30 teams with such an accomplishment; and

39 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Legislature to recognize and
40 commend the excellence and many contributions of outstanding
41 Mississippians such as Coach Jeff Bower, who has taught the
42 values of competition and sportsmanship to countless young
43 athletes during his career:

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
45 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
46 THEREIN, That we commend and congratulate Coach Jeff Bower for his
47 many years of success and accomplishment as head coach of the
48 University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles Football Team,
49 and we extend the best wishes of the Legislature to him in all his
50 future endeavors.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
52 furnished to Coach Jeff Bower and to members of the Capitol Press
53 Corps.