

By: Representative Holloway

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 16

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING COACH WILLIE "RAT"
2 MCGOWAN, SR., UPON HIS SUCCESSFUL CAREER AND HIS MANY
3 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY.

4 WHEREAS, Willie "Rat" McGowan, Sr., a native of McComb,
5 Mississippi, has completed his 34th season as head baseball coach
6 of Alcorn State University with a record of 611-587-7; and

7 WHEREAS, an alumnus of Alcorn State University, Coach McGowan
8 earned his bachelor of science degree in health and physical
9 education in 1961, before furthering his education at the
10 Universities of Georgia and Kansas, while earning his master of
11 science in health and physical education from Kansas State
12 University; and

13 WHEREAS, while at Alcorn as a student, "Rat," a four-year
14 letterman in football, acted as the team captain during the 1960
15 and 1961 campaigns, and earned the Little All-American Award in
16 1958 during his freshman campaign, additionally receiving
17 All-Conference honors in each of his four seasons and named team
18 Most Valuable Player, while being the recipient of the first Jack
19 Spinks Award in 1959; and

20 WHEREAS, prior to graduating, McGowan became an instructor of
21 science at Central High School in Liberty, Mississippi, in
22 addition to being named assistant football coach before garnering
23 the titles of athletic director, head football coach, track and
24 field and baseball coach the ensuing year for the 1962-1964
25 seasons; and

26 WHEREAS, having shared his instructional and coaching
27 abilities and expertise in Mississippi and Missouri, "Rat" McGowan

28 made his way back to Alcorn in 1968 as defensive back coach, where
29 he remained part of the football staff until 1993; and

30 WHEREAS, over the course of his 25-year stint, he wore many
31 hats, helping to guide the Braves to nine Southwestern Athletic
32 Conference (SWAC) Championships and four National Black College
33 Championships; and

34 WHEREAS, in addition to his football coaching duties, McGowan
35 split duty as head baseball coach and earned four SWAC Coach of
36 the Year Awards (1976, 1979, 1981 and 1988), four Eastern Division
37 Championships and one Eastern Division Tournament Championship;
38 and

39 WHEREAS, "Rat" McGowan has coached several notable players
40 who have gone on to be drafted into the major league, continued
41 the tradition of grooming a solid pedigree of players with several
42 potential draft picks on the roster; and

43 WHEREAS, in 1998, McGowan earned the prestigious honor of
44 being named to the Alcorn State University's Sports Hall of Fame
45 as a player and coach in football and baseball; and

46 WHEREAS, known as the "Dean of Baseball Coaches" in the SWAC,
47 "Rat" is the eldest coach in the conference; and

48 WHEREAS, wed to the former Doris Hamilton, who currently
49 serves as the Chair of the Department of Education and Psychology
50 at Alcorn, "Rat" has been supported and encouraged in his
51 endeavors by his wife and children, sons, Reginald and Willie,
52 Jr.; and

53 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
54 recognize and commend the excellence as exhibited by the passion
55 and talent of Coach "Rat" McGowan:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
57 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
58 commend and congratulate Coach Willie "Rat" McGowan, Sr., upon his
59 successful career and his many accomplishments while at Alcorn

60 State University and extend our warmest wishes for continued
61 success in all his future endeavors.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
63 furnished to Coach Willie McGowan, Sr., and to the members of the
64 Capitol Press Corps.