

By: Senator(s) Dearing, Posey, Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 554

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING NATCHEZ
2 CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH KEN BEESLEY ON HIS LANDMARK
3 200TH CAREER VICTORY AND HIS LEGACY AS TEACHER AND COACH ON THE
4 OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

5 WHEREAS, it's hard to quantify the impact of Ken Beesley's
6 38-year career as a Coach and Teacher at Natchez Cathedral High
7 School, but the numbers are not the real story so much as are the
8 individual lives he's touched; and

9 WHEREAS, on October 6, 2006, Coach Ken Beesley joined a
10 select club of coaches with 200 career victories. What makes his
11 accomplishment all the more rare is the fact that all of his wins
12 came while he was at one school; and

13 WHEREAS, during Beesley's career, he's coached in excess of
14 1,000 players, taken 18 teams to the postseason, won 10 or more
15 games in a season six times, won seven District Championships,
16 been to the three South State Championships, won two State
17 Championships in baseball, and touched the lives of countless
18 others both in the classroom and on the sidelines; and

19 WHEREAS, the group of former players who gathered on the
20 field after his 200th win spoke volumes about Coach Beesley's
21 legacy. He instilled in his players the discipline needed to
22 become someone in life; and

23 WHEREAS, nearly 40 years ago, Ken Beesley arrived in Natchez
24 to teach Math at Cathedral High School. Ten years later, Beesley
25 would be named the head football, baseball and basketball Coach of
26 the Green Wave. Twenty-nine seasons and 203 football wins later,
27 Beesley told Principal Pat Sanguinetti and Athletic Director Roy
28 Garcia that he was ready to step down as head football Coach of

29 Cathedral High School. Coach Beesley recommended that his son,
30 Craig, take his place, and that recommendation has been taken by
31 the school board; and

32 WHEREAS, after coming to teach at Cathedral High School in
33 1969 and beginning his coaching career in 1971, Ken Beesley served
34 as an assistant before assuming the head coaching position in
35 1978; and

36 WHEREAS, the Green Wave won several district and region
37 titles in all sports during his tenure, a state title in baseball
38 and a South State title in football in 1993; and

39 WHEREAS, Beesley, who went to Mississippi State on a baseball
40 scholarship, said there were plenty of memories made during his
41 years roaming the halls, gyms, fields and dugouts of the school.
42 Beesley said at the time he had thought about walking away from
43 the game, he had hoped to go out on a high note, and this season,
44 coming off a 7-4 record and a playoff berth, seemed like the
45 perfect time to do so; and

46 WHEREAS, in more than a generation of coaching, plenty of
47 people cross through a life, and Ken Beesley said he'd like to
48 take a moment to thank those who helped him along the way. "I
49 would like to thank all my former players, coaches, parents,
50 school staff and the Cathedral Athletic Association for all their
51 support during my career," he said; and

52 WHEREAS, sports are games of numbers--wins, losses,
53 touchdowns, runs, points, but for Coach Ken Beesley, it wasn't the
54 numbers that mattered, it was his success on people, faces and
55 lives touched. Coaches teach the world's lessons better than
56 anyone: dedication, hard work, perseverance, teamwork and
57 overcoming defeat. It is with great pride that we recognize the
58 strong foundation laid by this coach and educator, who has brought
59 honor to his school, his community and to the State of
60 Mississippi:

61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
62 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
63 we do hereby commend and congratulate legendary Natchez Cathedral
64 High School Football Coach Ken Beesley on his landmark 200th
65 career victory and his legacy as teacher and coach on the occasion
66 of his retirement, and extend to him and his family our best
67 wishes in their future endeavors.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
69 Coach Ken Beesley, forwarded to the Principal of Natchez Cathedral
70 High School and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.