

By: Senator(s) Michel, Davis, Pickering,
Tollison, Mettetal, Jackson (15th), Jackson
(32nd), Ross

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 610

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING
2 FIRST-YEAR OLE MISS BASKETBALL COACH ANDY KENNEDY FOR BEING NAMED
3 SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE (SEC) COACH OF THE YEAR 2007.

4 WHEREAS, in his debut season at the University of
5 Mississippi, Andy Kennedy returned the Ole Miss Basketball Rebels
6 to the top of the Southeastern Conference Western Division, and on
7 Tuesday, March 6, 2007, was named the SEC Coach of the Year by the
8 *Associated Press*; and

9 WHEREAS, Coach Kennedy guided Ole Miss, a preseason
10 last-place pick in the West, to its first division title since
11 2001 and its most regular season wins -- both overall (19) and SEC
12 (8) -- in five years. The Rebels knocked off 18th-ranked Alabama
13 for its first top-25 victory since 2004 and defeated current No.
14 22 Tennessee; and

15 WHEREAS, a 38-year-old native of Louisville, Mississippi,
16 Kennedy came to Ole Miss after a season as interim Head Coach at
17 Cincinnati, where he was labeled the Big East Coach of the Year by
18 *CBS Sportsline* and the *New York Post*. Thrust into duty less than
19 three months before the season, he led a shaken Bearcat program to
20 a 21-13 record and the brink of an NCAA Tournament berth, despite
21 the nation's fifth-toughest schedule and a roster short on staff
22 and scholarship players; and

23 WHEREAS, Kennedy is the fifth Ole Miss mentor to earn SEC
24 Coach of the Year distinction; and

25 WHEREAS, "I could not be more pleased the way things worked
26 out for me," Kennedy said. "I'm a man who lives his life by
27 faith, and I had faith that things would work out. They worked

28 out beyond my wildest imagination. Honestly, I didn't know what
29 this team was capable of. We had some success in SEC action and
30 the guys started to believe that if we took the right approach, we
31 could be successful, and that's a tribute to them. I've been
32 really pleased with how receptive they've been with the change";
33 and

34 WHEREAS, Andy Kennedy has often said he is using "smoke and
35 mirrors" to cover the Rebels' numerous problems on the court this
36 season. Whatever the tricks, they were enough to help him earn an
37 impressive honor; and

38 WHEREAS, "I think the Coach of the Year Award is a reflection
39 of people acknowledging the job that our kids did. Certainly, I'm
40 appreciative," Kennedy said; and

41 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
42 inspirational first-year coach who has taken his team from worst
43 to first and brought great honor to his university, his community
44 and to the State of Mississippi:

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
46 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
47 we do hereby commend and congratulate first-year Ole Miss
48 Basketball Coach Andy Kennedy for being named Southeastern
49 Conference (SEC) Coach of the Year for 2006-2007 and extend our
50 best wishes to him for future successes on and off the basketball
51 court.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
53 Coach Andy Kennedy, forwarded to Chancellor Robert Khayat and be
54 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.