

By: Senator(s) Simmons (13th), Butler,
Hopson, Clarke, Blackmon, Frazier, Norwood,
Barnett, Blackwell, Blount, Browning,
Carmichael, Caughman, Chassaniol, Dearing,
DeBar, Fillingane, Jolly, Kirby, McMahan,
Simmons (12th), Stone, Watson, Wiggins,
Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd), Burton

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 525

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE POSITIVE INFLUENCE OF
2 ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY HEAD FOOTBALL COACH JAY HOPSON AND
3 CONGRATULATING THE "BRAVES" FOR THEIR 2015 SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC
4 CONFERENCE (SWAC) FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, you can make a case that, all things considered,
6 nobody in college football has done a better coaching job over
7 four seasons than Alcorn State University Head Football Coach Jay
8 Hopson and his Alcorn staff. Hopson still commutes 40 minutes to
9 and from work from his Vicksburg home. In season, that means
10 leaving at dawn, returning home late at night. Those rides give
11 him plenty of time to think, and above all else, he has come to
12 this conclusion: "This was meant to be," says Hopson. "It's been
13 a blessing"; and

14 WHEREAS, his first Alcorn team won four games, all league
15 games. Since his first season, he has experienced much success:
16 the 2013 Braves won nine games and finished second in the SWAC;
17 the 2014 and 2015 teams have won a total of 18 games and two SWAC
18 titles; and this year's senior class is the one Hopson didn't get
19 to recruit in 2012; and



20 WHEREAS, "At Alcorn, we're all purple and gold," Hopson said.
21 He does not have time to deal with race. He is racing to create a
22 program basically from scratch. Hopson hired Fred McNair and
23 Willie Simmons as his first two coaches and went to work. Says
24 McNair, who remains as Hopson's Assistant Head Coach and
25 Quarterbacks Coach, "Nobody will outwork Jay. I don't just mean
26 coaching and recruiting. I mean everything." For his first game
27 against the defending SWAC Champion, Grambling and its famous
28 Coach, Doug Williams, Alcorn beat Grambling 22-21. It was "still
29 the greatest moment that I've experienced as a Head Coach," says
30 Hopson, who has won two league Championships since that victory;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, the Braves rolled up an outstanding 411 yards on the
33 ground in the SWAC title game against Grambling on December 5,
34 2015. The Celebration Bowl in Atlanta on December 19, 2015,
35 matching champions of the two historically black Division-I
36 conferences, had four scoring plays in the first quarter cover a
37 combined 315 yards. North Carolina A&T (10-2) used a slew of big
38 plays for a 41-34 win over Alcorn State (9-4). A 73-yard scoring
39 run with 4:17 left in the game was the game-winner, although
40 Alcorn State threatened the Aggies till the end. Only when
41 Lenorris Footman's fourth-and-goal pass from the 9-yard-line
42 sailed over a receiver with nine seconds left was North Carolina
43 A&T safe; and



44 WHEREAS, the 2015 Braves SWAC Championship Roster is: Deago
45 Sama; Joe Price; John Gibbs, Jr.; Charles Hughes; Tollette George;
46 Tavares Johnson, Jr.; Jordan Payne; Jarvis Turner; Marquis
47 Warford; Jaborian McKenzie; Brandon Vessell; Noah Johnson; Deundre
48 Pickett-White; Ben Brooks; Haiden McCraney; Lenorris Footman;
49 LaShaun Ealey; Anthony Williams, Jr.; AJ Bruce; Quinton Cantue;
50 Darryan Ragsdale; D'Andre Smith; Warren Gatewood; Eric Foster;
51 Quintin Smith; Daniel Franklin; Kylan Johnson; Jeremiah Sams;
52 Darius Dean; Christian Brown; Stacey Garner; Damon Watkins;
53 De'Lance Turner; Ashton Hall; Arron Baker; Terry Whittington;
54 Demetrious Whitehead; Trae Ferrell; Evan Grimes; Josh Ivery;
55 Darien Anderson; Jayron Harness; Michael Lester; Michael Hurns;
56 Terrell Williams; Solomon Muhammad; Ramonte Bell; Darrell
57 Henderson; Dwayne King, Jr.; Julius Lawrence; Darien Moody; Chris
58 Matthews; Davonte Hill; Ferderrick Ross; Theron Bonds; Pablo
59 Williams, Jr.; Iskeli Ongosia; Toto'a Leilua; Detonio Dade; Deonte
60 Brooks; Johnathan Scott; Jeffery Reno, Jr.; Ladonn Bolden; Chris
61 McCrea; Eric Snow; Edrick Thigpen; William Gordon; Isaac Sampson;
62 Corbin Johnson; Raidarious Anderson; Stephen Glover; LaDarrien
63 Davis; Jalen Walker; Norlando Veals; Troy Hobbs, Jr.; Brandon
64 Campbell; Lamarvin Ashley; Metise Moore; Kenyon Brantley; Antonio
65 Wells; Michael Ajumobi; Bryce Mingo-Bradley; Michael Brooks, Jr.;
66 Johnathon Hauer; Jaquaveon Bolles; Deion McNair; and Ramone
67 Atkins. Coaching staff: Jay Hopson, Head Football Coach; Fred
68 Kaiss, Offensive Coordinator; Tony Pecoraro, Defensive



69 Coordinator; Fred McNair, Assistant Head Coach/Quarterbacks Coach;
70 Cedric Thomas, Defensive Back Coach; Wes Turner, Linebackers
71 Coach/Videographer/Football Ops; Derek Nicholson, Defensive Line;
72 Shannon Harris; Wide Receivers; Ryan Stanchek, Offensive Line
73 Coach; AJ Antonescu, Tight End; Kenry Tolbert, Graduate
74 Assistant/Defensive Line; William Prince, Equipment
75 Manager/Strength and Conditioning; and Roderick Young, Athletic
76 Trainer; and

77 WHEREAS, Alcorn State University is known for its family
78 culture. Jay Hopson grew up as a huge Alcorn football fan. He
79 was raised 40 miles from Alcorn's campus in Vicksburg. In high
80 school, he played with and against a lot of future Alcorn State
81 players. "I can remember the Mississippi Valley State game when
82 Jerry Rice was playing and Ike Holt was the DB at Alcorn," Hopson
83 said. "He was the premier defensive back in the SWAC, and they
84 were playing Jerry Rice and Willie Totten at Valley State, and
85 Archie 'Gunslinger' Cooley was the Head Coach at Valley, and
86 Marino (Casem) was the Head Coach at Alcorn. And that game had
87 such huge hype, that it went to Jackson where 63,500 showed up for
88 that game. That is still the largest sporting event attended in
89 the State of Mississippi. The "Who Dat" chant didn't start with
90 the New Orleans Saints. 'Who Dat' started on the Alcorn State
91 University campus in Lorman." When Alcorn State University
92 created a plan to identify the most qualified candidates for
93 Alcorn State football, one of the most important qualifications



94 was someone with a connection to the area, and they found Jay
95 Hopson:

96 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
97 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
98 we do hereby recognize the positive influence of Alcorn State
99 University Head Football Coach Jay Hopson and congratulate the
100 "Braves" for their 2015 Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC)
101 Football Championship, and extend our best wishes to Coach Hopson
102 and the Alcorn family.

103 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
104 Coach Jay Hopson and Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr., forwarded to the
105 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, and
106 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

