

By: Senator(s) Younger, Jackson (32nd),  
Jackson (15th), Barnett, Burton, Carmichael,  
Chassaniol, Dearing, Fillingane, Norwood,  
Simmons (12th), Turner-Ford

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 526

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND SALUTING THE EAST  
2 MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE "LIONS" FOOTBALL TEAM AND "COACH OF  
3 THE YEAR" BUDDY STEPHENS FOR WINNING A RECORD-SETTING FOURTH NJCAA  
4 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AND NUMBER-ONE RANKING IN THE FINAL NATIONAL  
5 JUNIOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION POLL.

6 WHEREAS, East Mississippi Community College achieved a  
7 Magnolia State first at the 2013 Mississippi Bowl. It won the  
8 first National Championship on Mississippi soil; and

9 WHEREAS, the Lions achieved another landmark at the 2017  
10 Mississippi Bowl. With cameras aimed at his East Mississippi  
11 Community College Lions, Coach Buddy Stephens held up "Four! Four  
12 Championship fingers!" The celebration came minutes after Number  
13 One East Mississippi secured a 31-28 victory over Number Two  
14 Arizona Western in Mississippi Bowl X. The victory at A.L. May  
15 Memorial Stadium tied EMCC (2011, 2013, 2014) with host Gulf Coast  
16 (1948, 1971, 1984, 2007) for four National Championships, tops  
17 among Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges  
18 (MACJC) members; and



19           WHEREAS, Coach Stephens said nobody in Mississippi has ever  
20 won four National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)  
21 titles. It means a lot after the 2015 and 2016 teams didn't get  
22 to play; and

23           WHEREAS, East Mississippi (11-1) started off fast when former  
24 LSU Quarterback Lindsey Scott, Jr., connected with Dontario  
25 Drummond for a 13-yard touchdown. Ty Williams picked off Arizona  
26 Western Quarterback Bryce Perkins on the very next possession and  
27 returned it 49 yards for a touchdown to put the Lions ahead 14-0.  
28 The Matadors responded midway through the second quarter on a  
29 three-yard touchdown connection. Clinging to a 28-21 lead,  
30 Vancleave's Taylor Crabtree easily converted a 34-yard field goal  
31 with 14:54 remaining that ended up being the difference as it  
32 pushed EMCC ahead 31-21. Not done, Perkins led the Matadors down  
33 the field one last time, converting a crucial fourth down in  
34 Lions' territory to set up a three-yard touchdown pass to Anderson  
35 with 1:54 remaining. The Matadors came up empty on the ensuing  
36 onside kick and the Lions ran out the clock to claim their fifth  
37 Mississippi Bowl victory in front of a record crowd of 3,148.  
38 Scott was named the EMCC Lions Offensive MVP and the Mississippi  
39 Bowl Player of the Year after throwing for 170 yards and two  
40 scores and rushing for 40 more yards; and

41           WHEREAS, "So many of our guys had big games or made big plays  
42 that all contributed to the win in the end," East Mississippi  
43 Community College Head Coach Buddy Stephens said. "I could not be



44 prouder of the way our young men played and for all they  
45 accomplished. Our administration had a vision to make our  
46 athletics successful and let the school build off that success,  
47 and they have given us everything we needed to be successful"; and

48 WHEREAS, the 2017 East Mississippi Community College  
49 Championship Team Football Roster is: Daniel Crowell, Jr., WR;  
50 Ti'Morrius Conner, QB; Kirk Merritt, WR; Dorrean McLaurin, WR;  
51 Dontario Drummond, WR; Ty Williams, DB; Ja'Mori Mark, WR/RB;  
52 Tyrell Price, RB; JaQuez Akins, DB; Quin Jones, LB; Jacob  
53 Anderson, DB; Brandon Rodgers, WR; Calvin Keys, Jr., WR; Mike  
54 Williams, WR; Keilos Swinney, DB; Travion Jones, WR; Joseph  
55 Anderson, DB; Lindsey Scott, Jr., QB; Adrian Miller, WR; Reginald  
56 Hunter, Jr., RB; D.J. Clayton, WR; Duke Upshaw, DB; Braden Boykin,  
57 WR; Dwayne Pickett, Jr., DB; Grayson Pontius, P; C.J. Gholar, WR;  
58 Taylor Crabtree, PK; Untareo Johnson, LB; Ty'Ree Evans, LB;  
59 Emanuel Bridges, LB; Kaleb Gentry, LB; Justin Connor, RB; Nicholas  
60 Patterson, LB; Cole Baker, DL; Denzel Bonner, DB; Rasheed Jackson,  
61 DL; Raleigh Wood IV, LS; Eriq Kitchen, DL; Jakoby Jones, OL;  
62 Connor Reinike, OL; Matt Toles, OL; D'Anthony Page, OL; Kornelius  
63 Rogers, OL; LaQuinston Sharp, OL; Stuart Coggins, OL; Walter  
64 Barnes, OL; Cordell Birge, OL; Jauan Collins, DL; Lorenzo  
65 Dantzler, DL; Maleke Bell, DL; Aarron Boatright, DL; Kane Taylor,  
66 DL; Everitt Cunningham, DL; Marquise Griffin, DL; Tyone Clemons,  
67 DL; Head Coach Buddy Stephens; and Assistant Coaches: David



68 Boykin, Cliff Collins, Davern Williams, Justin Sanders, Bo Wallace  
69 and Courtland Hays; and

70 WHEREAS, this fourth National Championship was a fitting way  
71 to remember legendary Coach Bull Sullivan, whose strict  
72 disciplinary coaching methods and success were the topic of a  
73 famous *Sports Illustrated* article "The Toughest Coach There Ever  
74 Was"; and it is with great pride that we note this fourth National  
75 Championship by a team which has brought honor to its college, its  
76 community and to the State of Mississippi:

77 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
78 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
79 we do hereby recognize and salute the East Mississippi Community  
80 College "Lions" Football Team and "Coach of the Year" Buddy  
81 Stephens for winning a record-setting fourth NJCAA National  
82 Championship and Number-One ranking in the Final National Junior  
83 College Athletic Association Poll, and extend our best wishes to  
84 the team, coaches, parents and sponsors on this honor.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
86 Coach Stephens and East Mississippi Community College President  
87 Dr. Thomas Huebner, the Board of Trustees of East Mississippi  
88 Community College and the Mississippi Community College Board, and  
89 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

