

By: Senator(s) Harkins, Barnett, Blackwell,  
Browning, Clarke, Dearing, Jackson (15th),  
Jackson (32nd), Jolly, McMahan, Simmons  
(13th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 539

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MISSISSIPPI STATE  
2 UNIVERSITY "BULLDOGS" FOOTBALL TEAM FOR THEIR IMPRESSIVE VICTORY  
3 OVER THE LOUISVILLE CARDINALS IN THE 2017 TAXSLAYER BOWL IN  
4 JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

5 WHEREAS, closing out the 2017 season, Mississippi State  
6 University "Bulldogs" Football Team (9-4, 4-4, SEC) defeated the  
7 Louisville "Cardinals" (8-5, 4-4, ACC) 31-27 in the TaxSlayer Bowl  
8 on December 30, 2017, at EverBank Field in Jacksonville, Florida;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, coached by an interim staff led by Greg Knox, the  
11 Bulldogs put on an impressive display in all facets of the game,  
12 highlighted by big plays on each side of the ball; and

13 WHEREAS, with the win, the Bulldogs registered their  
14 third-consecutive bowl triumph while also improving to 13-8  
15 all-time in bowl games. The Cardinals fell to 11-11 in bowl  
16 appearances; and

17 WHEREAS, with Junior Quarterback Nick Fitzgerald out with an  
18 ankle injury, true Freshman Keytaon Thompson made his first-ever  
19 start at quarterback and put on a record-breaking performance in



20 the win. Thompson finished 11-of-20 passing for 127 yards and one  
21 interception, while also rushing 27 times for 147 yards and three  
22 touchdowns. Ultimately, Mississippi State University racked up  
23 404 yards of offense behind Thompson's leadership; and

24 WHEREAS, junior safety Mark McLaurin was named the TaxSlayer  
25 Bowl Most Valuable Player (MVP) after recording three  
26 interceptions on the day, contributing to four total picks the  
27 Bulldogs had in the game. Mississippi State University also  
28 recorded six pass break-ups and six stacks, capping a strong day  
29 by the defense. University of Louisville led 21-17 at halftime  
30 and 24-17 through three quarters, but Mississippi State rallied to  
31 outscore Louisville 14-3 in the final period on the strength of  
32 two of Thompson's three rushing touchdowns, as well as two of  
33 McLaurin's three interceptions. Mississippi State will begin its  
34 2018 season under first-year Head Coach Joe Moorhead with spring  
35 practice in March; and

36 WHEREAS, Mississippi State's 2017 season will be remembered  
37 for many things other than its 9-4 record: Change, Adversity, and  
38 Resiliency and when the season ended, it did so with a win; and

39 WHEREAS, the Mississippi State University "Bulldogs" Football  
40 Team Roster is: Brandon Bryant, DB; Logan Burnett, ATH; Jamal  
41 Peters, DB; Traver Jung, LB; Gerri Green, LB; Gabe Myles, WR;  
42 Willie Gay, Jr., LB; Donald Gray, WR; Tolando Cleveland, DB; Nick  
43 Fitzgerald, QB; Kylin Hill, RB; Malik Dear, WR; Montez Sweat, DL;  
44 Leo Lewis, LB; Keytaon Thompson, QB; Dezmond Harris, LB; J.T.



45 Gray, DB; Rip Kirk, ATH; Cameron Dantzler, DB; Braden Smith, ATH;  
46 Mitch Hood, ATH; Korey Charles, DB; Kareem Vance, Jr., ATH; Jamal  
47 Couch, WR; Londyn Craft, ATH; Deddrick Thomas, WR; Travis  
48 O'Connor, ATH; Taury Dixon, ATH; Reggie Todd, WR; Nick Gibson, RB;  
49 Blake Armour, ATH; Aeris Williams, RB; Raymond Freeman, ATH; Keith  
50 Mixon, WR; Allen Perkins, ATH; Chris Rayford, DB; Lashard Durr,  
51 DB; Jordan Lawless, K; Alec Murphy, RB; Kody Schexnayder, P;  
52 Jaquarius Landrews, DB; Dontavian Lee, RB; Tristan Pisacane, ATH;  
53 C.J. Morgan, DB; Dan Mills, K; Maurice Smitherman, DB; Brian Cole,  
54 DB; Tyler Williams, DB; Cory Thomas, DL; Landon Guidry, DB; Bennie  
55 Braswell III, ATH; Brad Wall, ATH; Johnathan Abram, DB; Nathan  
56 Swanson, ATH; Wyatt Powell, ATH; Erroll Thompson, LB; Mark  
57 McLaurin, DB; Tucker Day, K/P; Marquiss Spencer, DL; Fletcher  
58 Adams, DL; Logan Cooke, P/K; Aadreekis Conner, ATH; Josiah  
59 Phillips, LB; Aaron Odom, DL; Jace Christmann, K; Chris Redmon,  
60 ATH; Stephen Adegoke, ATH; Tim Washington, LB; R.J. Jennings, ATH;  
61 Stewart Reese, OL; Kobe Jones, DL; Hunter Bradley, SN; Cameron  
62 Miller, ATH; Blake Mitchell, ATH; Martinas Rankin, OL; Dareuan  
63 Parker, OL; Tyler Dunning, LB; Greg Eiland, OL; Deion Calhoun, OL;  
64 Cordavien Suggs, OL; Brett Armour, ATH; Joel Baldwin, SN; Michael  
65 Story, OL; Harry Parker, ATH; Tommy Champion, OL; Ronald Cochran,  
66 OL; Darryl Williams, OL; Elgton Jenkins, OL; Harrison Moon, OL;  
67 Tyre Phillips, OL; Evans Wilkerson, OL; Christian Roberson, TE;  
68 Justin Johnson, TE; Farrod Green, TE; Jordan Thomas, TE; Donte  
69 Jones, TE; Austin Williams, WR; Jesse Jackson, WR; Osirus



70 Mitchell, WR; Aaron Hamker, TE; Sherman Timbs, ATH; Powers Warren,  
71 TE; Grant Harris, DL; James Jackson, DL; Kendall Jones, DL;  
72 Chauncey Rivers, DL; Jeffery Simmons, DL; Braxton Hoyett, DL; Tre  
73 Brown, DL; Lee Autry, DL; and Interim Head Coach Greg Knox; and

74 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we commend this group of  
75 outstanding university athletes who have represented their school,  
76 their community and the State of Mississippi with honor:

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 the Mississippi State University "Bulldogs"  
80 Football Championship Team for their impressive victory over the  
81 Louisville Cardinals in the 2017 TaxSlayer Bowl in Jacksonville,  
82 Florida, and extend to the team, coaches, parents and sponsors our  
83 best wishes for future success.

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
85 Coach Knox for the team, forwarded to Mississippi State University  
86 President Mark Keenum and the Board of Trustees of State  
87 Institutions of Higher Learning, and made available to the Capitol  
88 Press Corps.

