

By: Senator(s) Hudson, Blackwell, Browning,  
Burton, Caughman, Clarke, DeBar, Fillingane,  
Hopson, Jackson (32nd), Kirby, Massey,  
McMahan, Norwood, Seymour, Simmons (12th),  
Watson

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 512

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE  
2 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI "GOLDEN EAGLES" BASEBALL TEAM  
3 AND COACH SCOTT BERRY FOR WINNING THE 2018 C-USA TOURNAMENT  
4 CHAMPIONSHIP AND FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON, INCLUDING ITS THIRD  
5 CONSECUTIVE YEAR IN NCAA POSTSEASON COMPETITION.

6 WHEREAS, for much of the 2018 season, the talk around USM  
7 baseball was the potency of the Golden Eagles' big bats and potent  
8 offense. Over a five-day stretch in May at the MGM Park in  
9 Biloxi, the USM Golden Eagles Baseball Team rode its pitching to  
10 win the 2018 Conference USA Baseball Championship; and

11 WHEREAS, Junior Right-Hander Mason Strickland won "Most  
12 Valuable Player" after throwing a three-hit, complete game 6-0  
13 shutout over Charlotte to put top-seeded USM in the Championship  
14 Game for the third consecutive season. Then, in Sunday  
15 afternoon's finale, Junior Left-Hander Adam Jackson and Senior  
16 Right-Hander Keller Bradford combined to limit the hard-hitting,  
17 third-seeded Owls on three runs on seven hits as the Golden Eagles  
18 claimed their second Postseason Title in three years with a 12-3  
19 victory; and



20 WHEREAS, Southern Miss (43-16) also won the League's Regular  
21 Season Title, giving the Golden Eagles both in the same season for  
22 the second time (2003). The Tournament Title came with C-USA's  
23 automatic bid into the NCAA postseason, the third consecutive year  
24 the Golden Eagles have made the 64-team field. "I'm just so proud  
25 of everybody because it's so hard to do what we did," USM Coach  
26 Scott Berry said, "to win the Regular Season Conference Title and  
27 then hold off seven other teams to win an automatic postseason  
28 bid." The Golden Eagles' five starters in the C-USA postseason,  
29 Nick Sandlin, Stevie Powers, Walker Powell, Mason Strickland and  
30 Adam Jackson posted a combined 1.05 earned run average; and

31 WHEREAS, USM fell to College World Series-bound Arkansas in  
32 the opening round of the NCAA Fayetteville Regional. With the  
33 loss, the second-seeded Golden Eagles (44-17) dropped into an  
34 elimination game with third-seeded Dallas Baptist University  
35 (41-20). The Golden Eagles played Dallas Baptist in the opening  
36 round and handed the Patriots a 9-0 loss; however, the Patriots  
37 avenged its opening round loss with a 9-4 victory; and

38 WHEREAS, Southern Miss Juniors Nick Sandlin (Evans, Georgia)  
39 and Luke Reynolds (Forest, Mississippi) were each named to a pair  
40 of All-America Baseball Teams by national publications. Sandlin  
41 earned "First-Team" honors by both *Collegiate Baseball* and  
42 *Baseball America*, while Reynolds garnered "First-Team" selection  
43 by *Collegiate Baseball* and "Third-Team" accolades from *Baseball*  
44 *America*. Sandlin, the Right-Handed Pitcher who was converted from



45 the team's Closer to top-starting Pitcher this season put together  
46 a 9-0 record with a 1.13 earned run average. In 14 starts,  
47 Sandlin has 95 1/3 innings to his credit and has allowed 51 hits,  
48 15 runs (12 earned) and 15 walks to go along with 134 strikeouts.  
49 The Golden Eagle Ace led the country in both ERA and WHIP (walks  
50 and hits per innings pitched/0.69), along with being in the Top 10  
51 in hits allowed per nine innings at 2nd (4.81), seventh in  
52 strikeouts and seventh in strikeouts-to-walk ratio (8.93).  
53 Sandlin was a semifinalist for both the "Golden Spikes" and "Dick  
54 Howser" Awards after also being named the Conference USA "Pitcher  
55 of the Year" and a member of the League's All-Tournament Team.  
56 Off the field, he was a C-USA All-Academic Team selection and an  
57 Academic All-District pick. Reynolds, who had not played  
58 collegiate baseball since the 2015 season, earned C-USA "Player  
59 and Newcomer of the Year" honors on the strength of a .400 batting  
60 average with 20 doubles, a triple, 15 home runs and 60 RBI. He  
61 added 69 runs and has tied a single-season school record with 63  
62 walks. The Golden Eagles' Third Baseman also led the squad in  
63 slugging percentage (.727) and on-base percentage (.562), while  
64 stealing eight of nine bases. He made only seven errors in 135  
65 fielding attempts for a .948 fielding percentage. Reynolds led  
66 the country in walks, and on-base percentage, while also ranking  
67 in the Top 10 in walks per game at 2nd (1.07), fifth in slugging  
68 percentage, sixth in runs and tied for ninth in batting average;  
69 and



70 WHEREAS, the 2018 USM "Golden Eagles" Baseball Team Roster  
71 is: Bryant Bowen, C; Drew Boyd, LHP; Lee Marcus Boyd, INF; Keller  
72 Bradford, RHP; Cody Carroll, RHP; Storme Cooper, INF; Cole  
73 Donaldson, C; Trent Driver, RHP; Fred Franklin, OF; Matthew  
74 Guidry, INF; Jordan Hayes, RHP; Erick Hoard, INF; Robert  
75 Iacobelli, C; Mason Irby, OF; Adam Jackson, LHP; Daniel Keating,  
76 OF; J.C. Keys, RHP; Jaylon Keys, INF; Casey Maack, INF; Will  
77 McGillis, INF/OF; Calder Mikell, RHP; Gabe Montenegro, OF; Alex  
78 Nelms, RHP; Ryan Och, LHP; Walker Powell, RHP; Stevie Powers, LHP;  
79 Luke Reynolds, INF; Nick Sandlin, RHP; Hunter Slater, OF; Colt  
80 Smith, RHP; Mason Strickland, RHP; Sean Tweedy, LHP; Matt Wallner,  
81 OF/RHP; Jacob Weirich, LHP; and Jarod Wright, RHP; and Head Coach  
82 Scott Berry, Associate Head Coach Chad Caillet, Assistant Coaches  
83 Christian Ostrander and B.A. Vollmuth, and Coordinator of Baseball  
84 Operations Collin Cargill; and

85 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we join The University  
86 of Southern Mississippi students and alumni in recognizing these  
87 outstanding amateur athletes who have brought honor to their  
88 university, their community and to the State of Mississippi:

89 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
90 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
91 we do hereby commend and congratulate The University of Southern  
92 Mississippi "Golden Eagles" Baseball Team and Coach Scott Berry  
93 for winning the 2018 C-USA Tournament Championship and for an  
94 outstanding season, including its third consecutive year in NCAA



95 postseason competition, and extend to the players, coaches,  
96 parents, and sponsors our best wishes for success in the 2019  
97 season.

98 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
99 Head Coach Scott Berry, forwarded to USM President Rodney D.  
100 Bennett and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
101 Learning, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

