

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Michel, Watson,
Blackwell, Dearing, Hopson, Jackson (11th),
Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 545

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LEGENDARY OLE MISS
2 LINEBACKER PATRICK WILLIS UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE COLLEGE
3 FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME.

4 WHEREAS, we join the students, faculty, administration,
5 athletes and alumni of The University of Mississippi in honoring
6 an Ole Miss football legend who has achieved immortality; and

7 WHEREAS, one of the most decorated defensive players in SEC
8 history, former Ole Miss Linebacker Patrick Willis, was elected
9 into the College Football Hall of Fame on December 10, 2018. A
10 four-year letterman at Ole Miss from 2003-2006, Willis was a
11 two-time First-Team All-American player who twice won the SEC's
12 Defensive Player of the Year Award in 2005 and 2006. In 2006,
13 Willis was the winner of both the Butkus Award and the Lambert
14 Award, both given to the nation's top linebacker; and

15 WHEREAS, as a junior in 2005, Willis led the Rebels' defense
16 with 128 tackles, nine tackles for loss, three sacks and an
17 interception. He improved upon those numbers as a senior in 2006,
18 recording 137 tackles, 11.5 tackles for loss, three sacks, two



19 forced fumbles and seven pass breakups on the way to being named
20 to 13 different All-American teams, an Ole Miss record. Off the
21 back of that 2006 season, Willis was invited to play in the Senior
22 Bowl, where he won Defensive MVP honors; and

23 WHEREAS, the San Francisco 49ers selected Willis with the No.
24 11 pick in the first round of the 2007 NFL Draft, after which
25 Willis put together one of the strongest careers of any NFL
26 linebacker this century. In eight seasons with the 49ers, Willis
27 was voted to seven Pro Bowls, was named a First-Team All-Pro five
28 times and led the NFL in tackles twice. In 2012, Willis helped
29 lead the 49ers' No. 2 scoring defense to a Super Bowl appearance;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, Willis was inducted into the College Football Hall
32 of Fame on December 10, 2018, in New York City. He was inducted
33 alongside fellow college football legends Terrell Buckley (Florida
34 State), Rickey Dixon (Oklahoma), London Fletcher (John Carroll),
35 Jacob Grey (Texas A&M), Raghieb Ismail (Notre Dame), Darren
36 McFadden (Arkansas), Jake Plummer (Arizona State), Joe Thomas
37 (Wisconsin), Lorenzo White (Michigan State) and Vince Young
38 (Texas); and

39 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we commend the legacy of
40 a Mississippi sports hero who has brought honor to his university
41 and to the State of Mississippi:

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
43 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That



44 we do hereby recognize legendary Ole Miss Linebacker Patrick
45 Willis upon his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame,
46 and extend our best wishes to Patrick and his family for future
47 successes.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
49 Patrick Willis, forwarded to the Athletic Director and Chancellor
50 of The University of Mississippi and the Board of Trustees of
51 State Institutions of Higher Learning, and made available to the
52 Capitol Press Corps.

