

By: Representatives Straughter, Bell (65th) To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 85

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ATHLETICISM AND NFL CAREER
2 SUCCESS OF JACKIE RAY SLATER AND RECOGNIZING HIM AS ONE OF THE
3 LEGENDARY FOOTBALL PLAYERS OF JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE
4 INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE'S HALL OF FAME.

5 WHEREAS, Jackson, Mississippi, native, Jackie Ray Slater, who
6 was born on May 27, 1954, and attended Jim Hill High School before
7 graduating from Wingfield High School, where he lettered in three
8 sports, but excelled in football, would become one of the greatest
9 football players to grace the gridiron, as a household name that
10 would boast a statistical record that dreams and legends are made
11 of; and

12 WHEREAS, during Slater's collegiate career, which began as a
13 member of the Jackson State University Tigers Football Team from
14 1972 to 1975 where he played alongside fellow Pro Football Hall of
15 Famer Walter Payton, he was a football letterman, and was selected
16 to the All-Southwestern Athletic Conference All-Star Game three
17 times, named to the first-team All-American by the *Pittsburgh*
18 *Courier*, and invited to participate in the College All-Star Game
19 at the conclusion of his senior season; and



20 WHEREAS, drafted as the 86th overall pick in the third round
21 of the 1976 National Football League Draft by the Los Angeles
22 Rams, the 6-foot 4-inch, 277-pound Slater played as a backup and
23 special team's player during his first three seasons before having
24 a breakout season in 1979 as a member of the starting lineup of
25 the Rams' offensive line that surrendered only 29 sacks and helped
26 the team's offense finish second in the NFL in total yards gained
27 with 6,006 yards; and

28 WHEREAS, described as the Energizer Battery Bunny that "just
29 kept going and going and going," Slater became a mainstay of the
30 Rams' establishment whose work ethic and leadership skills were
31 the driving force for his presence on the field, with 259
32 regular-season games played, the most ever by an offensive lineman
33 when he retired, which also accounted for 20 seasons with the
34 Rams, an NFL record of the most seasons with one team and a league
35 tie for third all-time for the most seasons played; and

36 WHEREAS, known as the most consistent member of one of the
37 most potent offensive lines in NFL history, Jackie, who was a
38 veteran of 18 playoff games which resulted in five NFC West
39 Division Championships, one NFC Championship and an appearance at
40 Super Bowl XIV, was selected to seven Pro Bowls, named NFL
41 Offensive Lineman of the Year in 1986, 1987 and 1989, selected to
42 the All-NFC team seven times, named to the All-NFL team three
43 times, and twice as an All-Pro team selection; and



44 WHEREAS, subsequent to his retirement from the league in
45 1995, Jackie worked with an ABC affiliate in Los Angeles and
46 participated as a guest coach during the St. Louis Rams training
47 camps in the early 2000s before being hired as co-offensive
48 lineman coach for the Oakland Raiders in 2006, and ultimately
49 assuming the role as offensive line coach at Azusa Pacific
50 University in 2011, where he continues to serve; and

51 WHEREAS, one who showcased superior athleticism in every play
52 executed, Slater's gridiron presence encompassed: providing
53 frontline coverage for 24 different quarterbacks and 37 different
54 running backs; blocking for seven different 1,000-yard rushers,
55 including Lawrence McCutcheon, Wendell Tyler, Eric Dickerson,
56 Charles White, Greg Bell, Cleveland Gary and Jerome Bettis;
57 blocking in 107 games in which a runner gained 100 yards or more;
58 and acting as a quality pass blocker; affording Rams quarterbacks
59 the privilege of throwing for 300 yards or more in a game 27 times
60 with Jackie in the lineup; being a part of the 1983 Rams'
61 offensive line that allowed a league-low 23 sacks, while also
62 paving the way for Dickerson's rookie rushing record of 1,808
63 yards; and

64 WHEREAS, a model of consistent superlative play and widely
65 regarded as one of the game's premier linemen, Jackie's honors,
66 which include his enshrinement into the 2001 Pro Football Hall of
67 Fame, the 2003 Class of Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and the
68 Jackson State University Hall of Fame; and



69 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
70 recognize and pay homage to the stellar athletic feats of sports'
71 legends of Jackie Slater's caliber:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
73 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
74 commend the athleticism and NFL career success of Jackie Ray
75 Slater and recognize him as one of the legendary football players
76 of Jackson State University to be inducted into the National
77 Football League's Hall of Fame.

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
79 furnished to Jackie Ray Slater and to the members of the Capitol
80 Press Corps.

