

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Frazier, Blount, Branning, Butler (38th), DeBar, England, Horhn, McDaniel, Simmons (12th), Simmons (13th), Sparks, Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 534

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY "TIGERS" FOOTBALL TEAM AND AWARD-WINNING
3 COACH DEION "COACH PRIME" SANDERS FOR A REMARKABLE PROGRAM RECORD
4 11-WIN SEASON AND FOR WINNING THE SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
5 (SWAC) TITLE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2007.

6 WHEREAS, one of the biggest coaching hires in Football
7 Championship Subdivision college football history has paid quick
8 dividends. Just over a year after the school made the legendary
9 cornerback a first-time head coach, the Tigers have set a program
10 record with 11 wins and captured the Southwestern Athletic
11 Conference (SWAC) Title for the first time since 2007. The Tigers
12 qualified for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities
13 Title Celebration Bowl for the first time; and

14 WHEREAS, Jackson State University certainly "believes" in the
15 results Coach Deion "Prime" Sanders who was named the 2021
16 recipient of the Stats Perform FCS Eddie Robinson Award, which is
17 presented to the National Coach of the Year in the Division I
18 Subdivision. One of 17 finalists for the award, which is named
19 for legendary Grambling State Coach Eddie Robinson and celebrating



20 its 35th anniversary season, Sanders will be honored at the FCS
21 National Awards Banquet in Frisco, Texas; and

22 WHEREAS, "This is a team effort, it's a valiant effort, it
23 takes a lot, it does not just take me. I know it takes a
24 visionary, but people have to really support the vision. And
25 that's what we did," Sanders said. After Jackson State hired
26 Sanders in September 2020, he quickly instituted an "I Believe"
27 mantra to suggest positive days were ahead for a program that
28 didn't have a winning season since 2013; and

29 WHEREAS, Sanders' son Shedeur, a freshman quarterback,
30 leading the offense as the 2021 Jerry Rice Award recipient, and
31 the defense ranking as the SWAC's best, Jackson State has gone
32 11-1, including 9-0 against conference opponents. While it's
33 unfolded, an average of 42,293 fans flocked to six home games - a
34 single-season record for an FCS school; and

35 WHEREAS, after being named SWAC "Coach of the Year" and FCS
36 "Coach of the Year," and after winning a conference championship
37 with a chance to win the program's first HBCU national title in a
38 quarter century, it's time to consider whether Coach Sanders' is
39 transforming the power structure of college athletics. JSU
40 overshadowed every college football heavyweight on the first day
41 of the early signing period when five-star cornerback Travis
42 Hunter, the nation's No. 1 overall recruit, launched a new era in
43 the sport by switching his commitment from Florida State to the



44 Tigers - all despite JSU's modest budget, facilities, schedule and
45 lack of a national television deal; and

46 WHEREAS, Linebacker James Houston, Wide Receiver Warren
47 Newman and Cornerback Isaiah Bolden were named to the Stats FCS
48 All-American Team; and

49 WHEREAS, the 2021 SWAC Championship Tiger Roster is: Josh
50 Lanier; Shedeur Sanders; C.J. Holmes; Aalah Brown; De'Jahn Warren;
51 Shane Hooks; Kev'ric Wiggins; John Huggins; Keith Corbin, III;
52 J.D. Martin; Al Young; Warren Newman; Cam'ron Silmon-Craig;
53 Greyson Thompson; Malachi Wideman; Christian Allen; Trevonte
54 Rucker; Damon Bell; Cedrick Moffett, II; Errick Simmons; Demonte
55 Holliman; Kare' Lyles; Tim Robinson; Caleb Jolivette; Herman
56 Smith, III; Shilo Sanders; Peyton Pickett; Isaiah Bolden; Desmond
57 Moultrie; Tyson Alexander; Anthony Petty; Randall Haynie; Trey
58 Lockhart; Kevin May; Lane McGregor; Greg Williams; Javien Adams;
59 Glenn Misiak; Bailey Raborn; Jacob Polite; Santee Marshall; Noah
60 Anderson; Keonte Hampton; James Houston; Jeremiah Brown; Frankie
61 Dunn; Daelyn Dunn; Aubrey Miller, Jr.; C.J. Nunnally; Baron
62 Hopson; Marcus O'Neal; Kaleb Graham; Cedric Dunbar; Khalil
63 Arrington; Donald Turley; Abdul-Malik McClain; Nyles Gaddy;
64 Lafonzo Ruffin; Tyler Wells; Amari Catchings; Jakob Cunningham;
65 Vincent Sampson; Braxton Bailey; Deontae Graham; James Reddick,
66 II; Stephen Singleton; Rufus Carl Jones; Paxton Branning; Kirk
67 Ford; Charlton Goodell; Demetri Jordan; Tony Gray; Jevonte
68 Gardner; John Mitchell; Charles Armstrong; Tre Johnson; Jency



69 Riley; David Studstill; Kobe Paul; Kortlon Hubbard; Kyland Richey;
70 D.J. Stevens; Daniel Crowell, Jr.; Chad Turner; Katron Evans;
71 Tredarius Carr; Justin Ragin; Tre'von Riggins; Coynis Miller;
72 Jeremiah Williams; Jaumonie Crain; Devonta Davis; Ke'Shawn
73 Brinkley; Antwan Owens; Markeyvrick Eddie; Donovan Hunt; Head
74 Coach, Deion Sanders; Assistant Coach/Quarterbacks, Michael
75 Pollock; Assistant Coach/Wide Receivers, Jason Phillips; Assistant
76 Coach/Running Backs, Gary Harrell; Assistant Coach/Linebackers,
77 Andre' Hart; Assistant Coach/Special Teams, Alan Ricard; Assistant
78 Coach/Offensive Line, Mike Markuson; Assistant Coach/Defensive
79 Line, Jeff Weeks; Assistant Coach/Cornerbacks, Kevin Mathis;
80 Director of Player Personnel, Otis Riddley; Offensive
81 Coordinator/Tight Ends Coach, T.C. Taylor; Defensive Coordinator,
82 Dennis Thurman; and Director of Internal Operations & Liaison for
83 Academics, Latoya M. Williams; and

84 WHEREAS, Jerry Rice, Doug Williams and, of course the legend,
85 JSU's own Walter Payton, all came from historically black colleges
86 and universities which have a rich history in football; and

87 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
88 award-winning team of university athletes and their award-winning
89 coaches, who have brought honor and national attention to Jackson
90 State University and to the Capital City:

91 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
92 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
93 we do hereby commend and congratulate the Jackson State University



94 "Tigers" Football Team and award-winning Coach Deion "Coach Prime"
95 Sanders for a remarkable program record 11-win season and for
96 winning the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Title for the
97 first time since 2007, and extend to Coach Prime and his
98 assistants, the team, parents, sponsors and support staff our best
99 wishes for future success.

100 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
101 Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders for the JSU Tigers, JSU President,
102 Thomas K. Hudson, forwarded to the Board of Trustees of State
103 Institutions of Higher Learning and made available to the Capitol
104 Press Corps.

