

By: Senator(s) Blackmon, Horhn, Butler
(36th), Thomas, Norwood, Barnett, Blount,
Butler (38th), Caughman, England, Frazier,
Hickman, Hopson, Jackson, McCaughn, McLendon,
McMahan, Michel, Simmons (13th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 507

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE
2 JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY "TIGERS" FOOTBALL TEAM, HEAD COACH DEION
3 SANDERS AND THE "TIGERS" COACHING STAFF UPON WINNING THEIR SECOND
4 CONSECUTIVE SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (SWAC) CHAMPIONSHIP
5 AND UPON BECOMING THE 2022 SWAC CHAMPIONS, AND RECOGNIZING JACKSON
6 STATE UNIVERSITY'S CONTINUAL FULFILLMENT OF ITS VISION STATEMENT
7 OF BUILDING UPON ITS HISTORIC MISSION OF PROMOTING AND EMPOWERING
8 DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AMONG ITS SCHOLARS AND SCHOLAR-ATHLETES
9 THROUGH INTERDISCIPLINARY AND MULTIMODAL COLLABORATIVE LEARNING.

10 WHEREAS, the Jackson State University "Tigers" Football Team,
11 led by "Coach Prime" Deion Sanders and an equally exceptional
12 coaching staff, reigned supreme during the 2022 season, laying
13 claim to its second consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference
14 (SWAC) Championship, the "Tigers'" first back-to-back SWAC titles
15 since 1995-1996; and

16 WHEREAS, after initially clinching the SWAC Championship
17 during the 2021 gridiron season for the first time since 2007 with
18 the university's first 11-win season in school history, the 2022
19 "Tigers" one-upped their previous season, breaking their own
20 record by going a perfect 12-0 on the regular season, and 8-0 in
21 conference division play; and



22 WHEREAS, the "Tigers," who had a superior season that was
23 driven by more than just the yearning to succeed, intensely
24 amplified all of their hard work, motivation and audacity for the
25 championship game to defeat Southern University 43-24 at
26 Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium in Jackson, Mississippi, on
27 December 3, 2022, before an exuberant crowd of 53,754 enthusiastic
28 spectators, and collect the program's 18th SWAC Football
29 Championship, which also berthed the team's second consecutive
30 bowl appearance at the Cricket Celebration Bowl; and

31 WHEREAS, striving all season long to be the best football
32 program in the state, Jackson State University put aside the
33 excitement, fanfare and attention to focus on the championship
34 game and prepare as they had throughout the season, and that
35 strategy, along with the monumental support from the entire
36 community, which evidenced its devoted belief in "Thee I Love"
37 through record-breaking game attendance that amassed approximately
38 501,000 fans throughout the 2022 season of competition, and which
39 further solidified the "Tigers'" ascent to championship status;
40 and

41 WHEREAS, the Jackson State University "Tigers" Football
42 Team's mental stamina and determination never waived from the
43 moment they ran onto the field until the last down was played
44 scoring 490 points on the season, while only yielding 176 points
45 to their formidable opponents, for an average of approximately
46 37.7 points per game; and



47 WHEREAS, during the championship game that kept fans in a
48 full experience for the entire 60 minutes of electrifying play,
49 the game's opening 11 minutes set the tone for what was to follow
50 in the next three quarters as the nation's top-ranked defense
51 forced three turnovers, made two sacks and following a
52 three-and-out forced by the JSU defense, the "Tigers'" offense
53 drove 61 yards in nine plays, as freshman kicker, Alejandro Mata's
54 22-yard field goal gave Jackson State a 3-0 lead; and

55 WHEREAS, the interception and 37-yard return of a Southern
56 pass by Herman Smith III positioned the "Tigers" at the "Jaguar's"
57 one-yard line, which made for an effortless one-yard touchdown run
58 by Sy'Veon Wilkerson two plays later, followed by a PAT kick that
59 gave Jackson State a 10-0 lead with 8:26 to play in the first
60 quarter; and

61 WHEREAS, on the ensuing possession, linebacker Aubrey Miller
62 Jr.'s sack and forced fumble was recovered by Antonio Doyle, Jr.,
63 at the Southern 14-yard line, which afforded quarterback Shedeur
64 Sanders prime opportunity to capitalize on the next play, by
65 firing a 14-yard touchdown pass to Shane Hooks, and Kevin
66 Coleman's two-point conversion pass catapulted the "Tigers" to an
67 18-0 lead with 6:35 remaining in the first quarter; and

68 WHEREAS, Jackson State made its third takeaway on the next
69 Southern drive as Baron Hopson's sack and forced fumble was
70 recovered by Justin Ragin at the JSU 42-yard line, allowing the
71 "Tigers" to find the end zone once again as Sanders and Hooks



72 connected on a 40-yard scoring pass, and echoed with a
73 Sanders-to-Coleman two-point conversion pass, which gave JSU a
74 26-0 advantage over Southern with 3:51 to play in the opening
75 period; and

76 WHEREAS, an early score by Southern in the second quarter
77 only fueled JSU's fire, compelling the "Tigers" to respond on its
78 fifth straight possession with a seven-play, 85-yard drive, which
79 resulted in a 14-yard scoring pass from Sanders to Coleman, and
80 Mata's PAT boosting the "Tigers" to a 33-7 lead with 11:25 to play
81 in the first half; and

82 WHEREAS, after Southern managed to close the gap in the third
83 quarter, the "Tigers," on the prowl, pounced once again to put the
84 game away for good, as Sanders threw his fourth touchdown pass of
85 the game, a nine-yard strike to Rico Powers late in the period for
86 the final margin, yielding the "Tigers" a 43-24 victory over the
87 "Jaguars," a staunch reminder why tigers are the "true" kings of
88 the jungle; and

89 WHEREAS, while the old saying goes, "defense wins
90 championships," it certainly held true during the championship
91 game, as the "Tigers'" defense erected an impenetrable stone wall
92 that showcased the tactical prowess, stamina and skillsets that
93 are inherent characteristics to the apex predator for which they
94 are named; and

95 WHEREAS, the "Tigers" have a very talented and distinguished
96 roster, and each player made a substantial contribution that led



97 to one of the most historic seasons in the history of the "Tigers"
98 football program, including: J.P. Andrade, Khalil Arrington,
99 Gerardo Baeza, Kejuan Barbee, Jackson Barry, Tayvion Beasley,
100 Elliot Blackmon, Isaiah Bolden, Zachary Breaux, Jeremiah Brown,
101 Tyler Brown, Alvin Brumfield, Kris Cassel, Kevin Coleman, Jr.,
102 Dallas Daniels, Devonta Davis, Jelani Davis, Jurriente Davis,
103 Quaydarius Davis, Norman Douglas, Jr., Antonio Doyle, Jr., Daelyn
104 Dunn, Frankie Dunn, Kirk Ford, Jasper Friis, Nyles Gaddy, Willie
105 Gaines, Charlton Goodell, Deontae Graham, Timontre Graham, Gregory
106 Grate, Hayden Hagler, Aarion Hartman, Devin Hayes, Evan Henry,
107 Shane Hooks, Baron Hopson, John Huggins, Jalin Hughes, Jacob
108 Humphrey, Andre Hunt, Donavan Hunt, Travis Hunter, Marquis
109 Johnson, Sam Johnson, Caleb Jolivette, Demetri Jordan, Josiah
110 Laban, Santee Marshall, J.D. Martin, Alejandro Mata, Emari
111 Matthews, Kevin May, Lane McGregor, Jason Mercier, Aubrey Miller,
112 Jr., Glenn Misiak, King Mwikuta, Willis Patrick, Dazerick Patton,
113 Kobe Paul, Jacob Politte, Rico Powers, Justin Ragin, Julius
114 Reynolds, Matthew Ricciardi-Vitale, Tre'von Riggins, Jency Riley,
115 Trevonte Rucker, Delano Salgado, Shedeur Sanders, Shilo Sanders,
116 Tayari Sherwood, Trace Shumans, Cam'Ron Silmon-Craig, Errick
117 Simmons, Christopher Smith, Julian Smith, Herman Smith III, D.J.
118 Stevens, David Studstill, Reginald Swinton, Greyson Thompson,
119 Michael Thompson, Tru Thompson, Donald Turley, Kaseem Vaults, Zyon
120 Walker, Amari Ward, De'Jahn Warren, J.J. Weeks, Malachi Wideman,
121 Ke'Vric Wiggins, Jr., Sy'veon Wilkerson and Jeremiah Williams; and



122 WHEREAS, the team's statistics were impressive this season,
123 and there were outstanding performances by individual players, but
124 the key to the team's remarkable success has been the constant
125 atmosphere of unity and year-round hard work by the following
126 talented 19 student-athletes who were named to All-Conference
127 teams as All-SWAC Honorees, including: first-team recipients,
128 Shedeur Sanders, Aubrey Miller, Jr., Dallas Daniels, Shane Hooks,
129 Willis Patrick, Tyler Brown, Cam'ron Silmon-Craig and Alejandro
130 Mata; second-team recipients, Travis Hunter, Sy'Veon Wilkerson,
131 D.J. Stevens, Devin Hayes, Justin Ragin, Nyles Gaddy, Shilo
132 Sanders and Isaiah Bolden; third-team recipients, Jurriente Davis
133 and John Huggins; fourth-team recipient, Jacob Politte; in
134 addition to Shedeur Sanders being named Offensive Player of the
135 Year, Aubrey Miller, Jr., being named Defensive Player of the
136 Year, and Kevin Coleman, Jr., being named Freshman of the Year;
137 WHEREAS, Head Coach Deion Sanders, who was named SWAC Coach
138 of the Year for the second consecutive year, and an elite coaching
139 staff who are personally vested in the academic and athletic
140 success of each player, have superbly coached and tremendously
141 inspired the "Tigers" and broadened their knowledge of the game
142 while refining their skills in execution, and he continues to
143 build upon the legacy of superior play and true sportsmanship
144 forged by the tenacious and undaunted spirit of each team member,
145 as evidenced in his ability to produce high-caliber players and
146 plays and by the team's successful season; and



147 WHEREAS, the level of accountability to which each player is
148 held has manifested a culture of success that has become
149 demonstrative both on and off the field, and not only with the
150 football team, but through the entire "Tigers'" athletics program,
151 which leads the Southwestern Athletic Conference, and the State of
152 Mississippi, in the latest NCAA's Graduation Success Rate (GSR)
153 report announced in November, posting an overall GSR of 90%, the
154 highest in the SWAC, and tied with Ole Miss and Mississippi State
155 for the highest in the state; and

156 WHEREAS, despite the challenges of the pandemic and endemic
157 water and infrastructure woes, JSU's student-athletes, staff and
158 coaches remained steadfast in their focus on the academic mission
159 of becoming champions in the classroom first, which has enabled
160 them to continuously excel in all aspects of the collegiate
161 experience, which in turn further impacts their posture for their
162 individual career successes moving forward, as more than 150
163 student-athletes attained at least a 3.0 grade-point average, with
164 35 student-athletes with a 4.0 GPA, and a collective 3.101 grade
165 point average in the Fall 2022 semester, which produced 28
166 football graduates; and

167 WHEREAS, building on its historic mission of empowering a
168 culturally diverse group of students to become leaders, Jackson
169 State University has become recognized as a challenging, yet
170 nurturing, state-of-the-art technologically infused intellectual
171 community that promotes student and faculty engagement in creative



172 research, participation in interdisciplinary and
173 multi-instructional/organizational collaborative learning teams,
174 while serving the global community; and

175 WHEREAS, the theme of diversity and inclusion that is being
176 masterfully implemented by the administration of Jackson State
177 University has laid the historical foundation for a student body
178 that is a beautiful tapestry of ethnicities and cultures
179 intricately woven together into a masterpiece that is
180 representative of the Mississippi we aspire daily to achieve and
181 utilize as a branding trademark to highlight the greatness and
182 limitless potential for success the Hospitality State has to
183 offer; and

184 WHEREAS, in a testament to the fulfillment of its platform of
185 diversity and inclusion JSU made history on April 5, 2022, with
186 the "Sonic Boom" of the South's bestowing the J5 Head Drum Major
187 Honor for the 2022-2023 season upon senior Marvin Garcia Meda, as
188 the first Hispanic head drum major after initially becoming the
189 first Hispanic student to hold a highly coveted position as a
190 member of the energetic, high-stepping and synchronously
191 choreographed quintet as a sophomore, and sophomore Priscilla
192 Marin, now in her second year as the first Hispanic performer of
193 the "Prancing J-Settes" in the institution's history, both of whom
194 are first-generation Jackson State University students; and

195 WHEREAS, the beauty of Jackson State University is the
196 familial bond that was established at its 1877 founding as Natchez



197 Seminary by the American Baptist Home Mission Society for the
198 moral, religious and intellectual improvement of African
199 Americans, and which prevails in perpetuity through the
200 dauntlessly enduring commitment to those core values while
201 expanding its curriculum to meet the ambitious educational needs
202 of a progressive student body whose affinity for their beloved
203 university is entrenched in the popular ascribed alumni motto,
204 "Thee I Love," which is gleaned from the lyrics of its alma mater
205 "Jackson Fair"; and

206 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize and commend
207 outstanding Mississippi student-athletes, especially those such as
208 the Jackson State University "Tigers" Football Team, whose hard
209 work and perseverance brings honor to their school, their
210 community and to the State of Mississippi:

211 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
212 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
213 we do hereby recognize and commend the Jackson State University
214 "Tigers" Football Team, Head Coach Deion Sanders and the "Tigers"
215 coaching staff upon winning their second consecutive Southwestern
216 Athletic Conference (SWAC) Championship, upon becoming the 2022
217 SWAC champions, recognizing Jackson State University's continual
218 fulfillment of its vision statement of building upon its historic
219 mission of promoting and empowering diversity and inclusion among
220 its scholars and scholar-athletes through interdisciplinary and
221 multimodal collaborative learning, and extend to them best wishes



222 for continued success in all of their future athletic, academic
223 and career endeavors.

224 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
225 former Head Coach Deion Sanders and Acting President Dr. Elayne
226 Hayes-Anthony, and made available to the members of the Capitol
227 Press Corps.

