

By: Senator(s) Johnson, Polk, Fillingane,
Barnett, Berry, Carter, McCaughn, Robinson,
Seymour, Sparks, Younger

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 6

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE MISSISSIPPI
2 SENATE FOR THE REMARKABLE CAREER OF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
3 MISSISSIPPI BASEBALL COACH SCOTT BERRY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
4 RETIREMENT AFTER SEVEN-STRAIGHT 40-VICTORY SEASONS, NINE STRAIGHT
5 NCAA REGIONAL APPEARANCES AND TWO STRAIGHT SUPER REGIONALS.

6 WHEREAS, we join the players, faculty and fans of The
7 University of Southern Mississippi in honoring legendary Baseball
8 Coach Scott Berry on the occasion of his retirement at age 60
9 following 14 seasons at the helm of the Southern Mississippi
10 baseball program, leading the Golden Eagles to unprecedented
11 levels of success as the team moved to the Sun Belt Conference;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, under Berry's tutelage, Southern Miss has captured
14 five Conference regular season titles, registered five league
15 tournament crowns, obtained nine NCAA Tournament appearances, and
16 the Golden Eagle head coach has won the league's "Coach of the
17 Year" award four times; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2022, he oversaw a squad that tied for the
19 second-most victories at the school with a 47-19 mark, won a



20 regional on its home field - defeating LSU two out of three games
21 at Pete Taylor Park/Hill Denson Field, and played host to its
22 first-ever NCAA Super Regional. His squad also became the fourth
23 school since the NCAA that went to a Super Regional format to host
24 a league tournament, NCAA Regional, and NCAA Super Regional in the
25 same season; and

26 WHEREAS, in the final year of Conference, Berry led the
27 Golden Eagles to a regular season title and enjoyed the school's
28 fourth Ferriss Trophy in Tanner Hall for the "Top Collegiate
29 Player in the State of Mississippi." He also captured the C-USA
30 "Coach of the Year" award. The Golden Eagles registered their
31 sixth-straight 40-win season, the most currently held by any
32 Division I program, and earned a spot in the NCAA Tournament for
33 the sixth-straight year and 18th time overall. Southern Miss
34 finished as high as No. 11 in the final polls. This team saw five
35 players earn C-USA postseason honors, while enjoying two
36 All-Americans and one Freshman All-America pick; and

37 WHEREAS, Coach Berry played two years at Crowder College, a
38 junior college in Missouri. After two all-region seasons as a
39 catcher, he was forced to give up baseball due to back issues. He
40 transferred to Southwest Missouri State where he completed his
41 degree and became a student assistant coach. In 1991, Berry was
42 named an assistant at Meridian Community College, serving under
43 Corky Palmer who would precede him at Southern Miss. After six
44 seasons as an assistant coach, which included Meridian's



45 first-ever JUCO World Series appearance in 1993 in Grand Junction,
46 Colorado, Berry became head coach at Meridian, Mississippi, where
47 he remained for four seasons, earning numerous "Coach of the Year"
48 awards. His teams were ranked in the top 10 all four years he was
49 at the helm, and placed 25 players at Division I schools and
50 coached nine future professional players; and

51 WHEREAS, Coach Berry rejoined Palmer with the Golden Eagles,
52 accepting an assistant coaching position at Southern Miss. Berry
53 worked in a number of roles, including hitting coach, pitching
54 coach, and associate head coach prior to becoming head coach in
55 2010. While a hitting coach, the Golden Eagles hit over .300 as a
56 team after batting .279 the previous season, with seven players
57 batting over .300. As a pitching coach, USM posted the lowest ERA
58 in Conference and produced four players who earned seven
59 All-America awards, including one in four consecutive years. In
60 2009, the Golden Eagles made their first trip to the College World
61 Series after defeating Florida in Gainesville in the Super
62 Regional round. Berry ran USM's streak of NCAA appearances to
63 nine with trips in 2010 and 2011, including a 2010 Conference
64 baseball tournament title and a share of the 2011 regular season
65 conference title; and

66 WHEREAS, in 2011, Berry earned C-USA "Coach of the Year"
67 Honors as he led the program to its ninth-consecutive NCAA
68 postseason as Southern Miss captured a share of the Conference
69 regular season title en route to a 39-19 mark and a berth in the



70 2011 NCAA Atlanta Regional. The 2011 season produced many awards
71 for Berry's team. Outfielder Tyler Koelling became the school's
72 first recipient of the Ferriss Trophy, awarded to the top
73 collegiate baseball player in the State of Mississippi, and was
74 one of four Golden Eagles to earn First-Team All-Conference
75 Honors; and

76 WHEREAS, at Coach Berry's final Super Regional in 2023, a
77 chant went up from the third base side of Pete Taylor Park.
78 "Berry! Berry! Berry!" they shouted. As that faded, a chant began
79 from the stands on the first-base side. "Thank you, 40! Thank
80 you, 40! Thank you, 40!" they boomed in unison. (Berry's jersey
81 number is 40.) Scott Berry, retiring at age 60, stood, his eyes
82 glistening, and soaked it in. Then he turned to the crowd, took
83 off the trademark batting helmet, placed it over his heart, and
84 waved to the crowd; and

85 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we honor the legacy of a
86 champion baseball coach who has left his mark on the sport he
87 loved, on The University of Southern Mississippi and on the State
88 of Mississippi:

89 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
90 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the recognition of the
91 Mississippi Senate for the remarkable career of University of
92 Southern Mississippi Baseball Coach Scott Berry on the occasion of
93 his retirement after seven-straight 40-victory seasons,
94 nine-straight NCAA regional appearances and two straight Super



95 Regionals, and extend the best wishes of the Mississippi Senate to
96 Coach Berry and his family for future successes.

97 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
98 Coach Scott Berry and USM President Dr. Joseph S. Paul, forwarded
99 to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning,
100 and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

