

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Frazier, Barrett,  
Thomas, Blount, Simmons (12th), Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 116

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING FORMER JACKSON  
2 STATE UNIVERSITY STAR RUNNING BACK LEWIS TILLMAN UPON HIS  
3 INDUCTION INTO THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF FAME.

4 WHEREAS, on July 28, 2023, star Jackson State University  
5 running back Lewis Darnell Tillman was inducted into the  
6 Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2023. Tillman, who  
7 grew up in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, stated he is most grateful  
8 that his name will join so many great athletes' names from  
9 Mississippi; and

10 WHEREAS, Lewis Tillman played seven seasons for the New York  
11 "Giants" and the Chicago "Bears." The following are highlights of  
12 his stellar career:

- 13 • New York "Giants" 5 years (1989-1993);
- 14 • Chicago "Bears" 2 years (1994-1995);
- 15 • Tillman was drafted in the 4th round in 1989 by the New  
16 York "Giants";



- 17           • He spent five years as a running back and special teams  
18 player for the "Giants," rushing for 1,406 yards and five  
19 touchdowns;
- 20           • He also was part the New York "Giants" Super Bowl  
21 Championship team in 1991, which included Lawrence Taylor;
- 22           • He spent two seasons with the Chicago "Bears" where he was  
23 the leading rusher in 1994;
- 24           • Prior to the NFL, Tillman enjoyed a great career at  
25 Jackson State University where he broke Walter Payton's school  
26 career rushing record with 3,989 yards and led the "Tigers" to  
27 three SWAC Championships and one Co-Championship;
- 28           • He was a two-time Kodak All-American and Walter Camp  
29 All-American;
- 30           • In addition to being named the SWAC Offensive Player of  
31 the Year in 1987, he won the MVP award in both the East-West  
32 Shrine and Blue-Gray All-Star games; and
- 33           • After retiring from the NFL, Tillman coached for 18 years  
34 on the high school and collegiate level.

35           WHEREAS, Tillman lives with his wife, Kathy, in Dallas,  
36 Texas. They have two grown children, Tricia and Lewis, Jr. He  
37 recently retired after 18 years in coaching from Madison Central  
38 to Texas Southern to Mississippi College to Callaway and Jim Hill.  
39 He listens to smooth jazz, just like his mentor Coach W.C. Gorden;  
40 and



41           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize an  
42 outstanding Mississippi football star, who has brought honor to  
43 his family, his university, and to the State of Mississippi:

44           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
45 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate former  
46 Jackson State University star running back Lewis Tillman upon his  
47 induction into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, and extend to  
48 Lewis and his family our best wishes for future success.

49           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
50 Lewis Tillman and his family, forwarded to the President of  
51 Jackson State University and be made available to the Capitol  
52 Press Corps.

