

By: Representative Bell (65th)

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 27

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MR. ASHLEY
2 ROBINSON, VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS AT JACKSON
3 STATE UNIVERSITY, UPON BEING NAMED THE 2024 NATIONAL ATHLETIC
4 DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR AND UPON HIS OVERALL SUCCESS AT JACKSON STATE
5 UNIVERSITY.

6 WHEREAS, Jackson State University (JSU) Athletic Director
7 Ashley Robinson, is being honored and celebrated upon being named
8 the 2024 National Athletic Director (AD) of the Year by the
9 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Legends, which
10 is a coveted title that recognizes exemplary vision and commitment
11 to athletic prowess; and

12 WHEREAS, a native of Jackson, Mississippi, Mr. Robinson's
13 path to greatness began at Murrah High School, where he was a
14 former standout point guard star for the Mustang's championship
15 basketball team, and his athletic success continued at Mississippi
16 Valley State University (MVSU), where he was a four-year letterman
17 in basketball and where he went on to become the program's
18 single-season and career record-holder in assists and was named

19 MVSU's Athlete of the Year in 2002 and received the 2002
20 President's Scholar-Athlete Award; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson's success as an outstanding high
22 school and college athlete was an indicator of his success as an
23 athletic director as he continues to receive well-deserved
24 accolades, such as the following: 2024 Light On College Sports
25 HBCU AD of the Year; 2023 Black Student-Athlete Summit AD of the
26 Year and 2022 Cushman & Wakefield AD of the Year, which was
27 awarded by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of
28 Athletics (NACDA); and

29 WHEREAS, additionally, under Mr. Robinson's leadership, JSU
30 won the C.D. Henry Award for the best all-around men's sports
31 program in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) in
32 2022-2023 and in May of 2024, he received the Roscoe Nance
33 Lifetime Achievement Award by the SWAC Alumni Association, and he
34 was named the 2024 YG&E Leader of the Year at the Young, Gifted
35 and Empowered Awards Show - all of which speak volumes of his
36 outstanding and visionary leadership; and

37 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson, before coming to JSU, displaced his
38 dynamic administrative skills at Delaware State University,
39 Mississippi Valley State University, Prairie View A&M University
40 and he also briefly served as Assistant Commissioner for
41 Compliance in the SWAC Office - all of which prepared him for his
42 electric tenure at Jackson State University; and



43 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson, who is in his seventh year at JSU and
44 currently serves as the chair of the SWAC Athletics Directors
45 Committee, has led JSU athletics to 20 championships and has
46 upgraded several of the program's facilities, and he has served as
47 past president of the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS)
48 Athletics Directors Association and was the first African American
49 in the position from 2020-2021, which speaks to his pioneering
50 spirit; and

51 WHEREAS, additionally, during Mr. Robinson's tenure, he has
52 made significant hires for Jackson State University, such as Coach
53 Deion "Prime" Sanders, NBA Champion Mo Williams and Coach T.C.
54 Taylor, among others; and

55 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson, who is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi
56 Fraternity, Inc., and who was named a 50 under 50 Recipient of
57 Mississippi's Top Urban Elite Professionals in January of 2025,
58 credits his success to, as he stated, "The people you surround
59 yourself with. They will determine if you achieve your goals. I
60 have been able to surround myself with great coaches, staffs and
61 administrators who understand the ultimate goal is about the
62 student-athlete experience." - which has truly been a recipe for
63 his impressive success at JSU; and

64 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
65 recognize and celebrate an outstanding athletic director such as
66 Jackson State University's Ashley Robinson, whose commitment to

67 "Building on Tradition, Blazing New Trails" has not only brought
68 great honor and pride to JSU but to this great state as a whole:

69 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF**
70 **REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby**
71 **recognize and congratulate Mr. Ashley Robinson, Vice President and**
72 **Director of Athletics at Jackson State University upon being named**
73 **the 2024 National Athletic Director of the Year, and wish him**
74 **continued success in all his future endeavors.**

75 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be**
76 **furnished to Mr. Ashley Robinson, Marcus Thompson, President of**
77 **Jackson State University and the Board of Trustees of State**
78 **Institutions of Higher Learning, and to the members of the Capitol**
79 **Press Corps.**

