

By: Senator(s) Williams, Rhodes, Harkins,
Tate, McCaughn, England, Boyd, Berry, DeLano,
Suber, Barrett, Younger, Parker, Blackmon,
Hopson, Michel, Seymour, Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 142

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING JIM ELLIS UPON THE
2 OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 46 YEARS AS THE PLAY-BY-PLAY
3 VOICE OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL PROGRAM.

4 WHEREAS, Mississippi State University (MSU) alum and
5 legendary broadcaster Jim Ellis announced his retirement after 46
6 years as the play-by-play voice of the Mississippi State
7 University baseball program; and

8 WHEREAS, Jim Ellis, affectionately known as "The Voice of the
9 Diamond Dawgs," has described and interpreted countless magical
10 moments in Mississippi State's baseball history, broadcasting 33
11 NCAA Regional appearances, seven SEC Tournament titles, five SEC
12 championships, 11 trips to the College World Series and a national
13 title; and

14 WHEREAS, a Mississippi State legend and an icon in sports
15 broadcasting, no one has been more instrumental in telling the
16 incredible stories of Mississippi State baseball for the last 46
17 seasons than Jim Ellis, and he is a special part of the



18 Mississippi State family, who has devoted decades of service and
19 love for the Bulldogs; and

20 WHEREAS, from SEC titles to countless historic NCAA Regional
21 and Super Regional wins, double-digit trips to Omaha and a
22 national championship, Jim Ellis has had a front-row seat to the
23 greatest moments in Diamond Dawg history; and

24 WHEREAS, Jim Ellis spent his early broadcasting career
25 calling local high school games, and when Ron Polk, legendary
26 Mississippi State baseball coach, lost his play-by-play announcer
27 in the Fall of 1978, the long-time MSU baseball coach was given a
28 tape of Jim, and he responded with, "He'll do." While it was not
29 a glowing seal of approval, it cracked the door open for Jim, and
30 he broke down the door with his talent; and

31 WHEREAS, in Jim Ellis' rookie season in 1979, the Bulldogs
32 went to the College World Series, which would be the first of 11
33 trips the iconic broadcaster would make to Omaha, but of all the
34 iconic moments he has called, Jim says the losses stick with him
35 more than the wins; and

36 WHEREAS, Jim Ellis' dedication to State has spanned from the
37 baseball field to the court to the gridiron, as he called the 2021
38 National Championship, the first national championship in school
39 history; and

40 WHEREAS, Jim Ellis has built a strong relationship with
41 countless players and coaches who have come through the esteemed
42 Mississippi State baseball program, and on February 15, 2019, the



43 radio suite at Dudy Noble Field was dedicated as the Jim Ellis
44 Broadcast Suite, and the home booth was named the Jim Ellis
45 Broadcast Booth. During the 2024 season, Ellis was inducted into
46 the Ron Polk Ring of Honor as a member of the sixth inductee
47 class; and

48 WHEREAS, a native of West Point, Mississippi, and a 1969
49 graduate of Mississippi State, Jim Ellis assumed the play-by-play
50 role for football and men's basketball at the start of the
51 2011-2012 athletic season following the retirement of legendary
52 voice Jack Cristil, and Jim Ellis retired from calling football
53 and men's basketball games following the 2017 season; and

54 WHEREAS, in addition to calling baseball, he had also been
55 serving as host of the weekly coach's show, and in 1998, 2002,
56 2013 and 2014, Ellis was named "Outstanding Broadcaster in
57 Mississippi" by National Sports Media Association (NSMA) while
58 representing Bulldog Sports Network and Learfield's MSU Bulldog
59 Sports Properties; and

60 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize and commend
61 outstanding Mississippians, such as Jim Ellis, "The Voice of the
62 Diamond Dawgs," for his remarkable dedication and years of service
63 to Mississippi State University, which bring lasting honor to the
64 university, his community and the State of Mississippi:

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
66 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Jim Ellis
67 upon the occasion of his retirement after 46 years as the



68 play-by-play voice of the Mississippi State University baseball
69 program, and extend our most sincere wishes for relaxation in the
70 lighter days ahead.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
72 Jim Ellis, forwarded to Mississippi State University President Dr.
73 Mark Keenum and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

