

By: Senator(s) Dearing, Clarke

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 552

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DELTA  
2 STATE UNIVERSITY HEAD FOOTBALL COACH RICK RHOADES ON THE OCCASION  
3 OF HIS RETIREMENT.

4 WHEREAS, after five seasons at the helm of the Delta State  
5 University "Statesmen" football program, Head Coach Rick Rhoades  
6 announced on January 15, 2007, his retirement from the position;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Coach Rhoades' decision comes on the heels of Delta  
9 State's 12-3 NCAA semifinal finish this season; and

10 WHEREAS, the announcement ends one of the most successful  
11 tenures in Delta State football history. In five seasons, Rhoades  
12 guided the Statesmen to a 38-20 (.655) record and an appearance in  
13 the 2006 NCAA Division II semifinals; and

14 WHEREAS, "Coach Rhoades has had a great run here at Delta  
15 State University (DSU), and we respect his decision to step down,"  
16 said Dr. Brad Teague, Director of Athletics. "Rhoades has  
17 directed this program with great leadership, character and  
18 efficiency over the last five years"; and

19 WHEREAS, known as an offensive innovator, Coach Rhoades  
20 turned the Statesmen into one of the nation's most prolific  
21 offenses. In 58 games, the Statesmen totaled 25,328 yards of  
22 total offense or 436.7 yards per game. In that same time frame,  
23 Delta State moved from an option-oriented attack into a  
24 quick-strike, aerial offense that tallied 16,074 yards passing.  
25 Individual players have also excelled under Rhoades' tutelage with  
26 seven former Statesmen named to various All-American teams, 25  
27 were placed on All-Region squads by various news outlets and 42

28 players were honored on the All-Gulf South Conference First or  
29 Second teams; and

30 WHEREAS, after capping one of the most successful seasons in  
31 Delta State University football history, the Statesmen (12-3)  
32 finished the year ranked No. 3 in the final American Football  
33 Coaches Association Top 25 Poll. The No. 3 final ranking is the  
34 second highest in the program's history. Delta State University  
35 finished the 2000 season No. 1 after claiming the NCAA  
36 Championship; and

37 WHEREAS, the Statesmen's magical run through the playoffs  
38 came to a close with a 49-30 loss to eventual champion Grand  
39 Valley State University in the semifinals of the playoffs. DSU  
40 had claimed three-straight road wins before the setback, including  
41 victories over previously unbeaten North Carolina Central and  
42 North Alabama. The 12 victories are the second most in school  
43 history and the most during the Rick Rhoades era at DSU; and

44 WHEREAS, "I would like to thank Delta State University, Drs.  
45 John Hilpert and Brad Teague, the University community, and the  
46 entire Cleveland community for the opportunity to coach here,"  
47 Coach Rhoades stated, "I also want to thank all the coaches and  
48 players who I have had the privilege of working with here at Delta  
49 State. I wish this University and the program nothing but the  
50 best in the future"; and

51 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the  
52 successes of this outstanding coach who has brought honor to his  
53 university, his community and to the State of Mississippi:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
55 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
56 we do hereby commend and congratulate Delta State University Head  
57 Football Coach Rick Rhoades on the occasion of his retirement and  
58 extend to him and his family the best wishes of the Legislature on  
59 their future endeavors.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
61 Coach Rhoades, forwarded to the President of Delta State  
62 University and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.