

By: Representatives Holloway, Middleton, Clarke, Denton, Gibbs, Mickens, Miles, Paden, Wooten, Campbell, Scott, Sykes, Clark, Huddleston (30th), Bell (65th), Karriem

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 58

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM FOR THEIR 2015 SOUTHWESTERN
3 ATHLETIC CONFERENCE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP AND INAUGURAL
4 CELEBRATION BOWL APPEARANCE.

5 WHEREAS, before a record setting crowd of 40,352 cheering
6 fans, on December 5, 2015, the Alcorn State University Braves
7 prevailed over the Grambling State Tigers, outscoring the Tigers
8 49-21, to win their second consecutive Southwestern Athletic
9 Conference Football Championship; and

10 WHEREAS, en route to their second consecutive conference
11 championship, the Braves' offense surpassed all others, setting
12 conference records in: total yards of offense, with 613 total
13 yards, total rushing yards, with 411 yards and total points
14 scored, scoring 49 points; and

15 WHEREAS, the result of an outstanding performance, Darryan
16 Ragsdale was named offensive most valuable player after setting a
17 conference record with 188 yards rushing and a touchdown to his
18 credit, Ragsdale's incomparable performance set a tone of
19 excellence for his fellow teammates on offense; and



20 WHEREAS, prior to the game, former Braves coach, Mr. Marino
21 Casem, winner of multiple championships at Alcorn State, spoke to
22 the team, the players called his speech "unbelievable," Mr.
23 Casem's message to the Braves was simple but poignant, telling
24 them "just to finish"; and

25 WHEREAS, the Braves' defense finished what the offense
26 started, allowing just 317 yards of total offense and three
27 scores, Warren Gatewood led the defense and earned the honor of
28 defensive most valuable player, intercepting a conference record
29 three passes and returning one for a Braves' touchdown, Gatewood's
30 performance helped the Braves establish and defend a significant
31 lead throughout the second half of play; and

32 WHEREAS, the success, fortitude and prowess exemplified in
33 the Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship (SWAC) berthed
34 the Alcorn State Braves a bowl presence as the team went on to
35 represent the State of Mississippi and the Southwestern Athletic
36 Conference in the inaugural Celebration Bowl, hosted in Atlanta,
37 Georgia, on December 19, 2015; and

38 WHEREAS, the Celebration Bowl featured two champions of
39 historically black Division-1 conferences, the Southwestern
40 Athletic Conference and the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference,
41 represented by North Carolina A&T, while the game was close until
42 the end, North Carolina A&T relied on several big plays to keep
43 the game just out of reach for the Braves despite their
44 outstanding effort; and



45 WHEREAS, the 2015 Braves Southwestern Athletic Conference
46 Championship roster is: Deago Sama, Joe Price, John Gibbs, Jr.,
47 Charles Hughes, Tollette George, Tavares Johnson Jr., Jordan
48 Payne, Jarvis Turner, Marquis Warford, Jaborian McKenzie, Brandon
49 Vessell, Noah Johnson, Deundre Pickett-White, Ben Brooks, Haiden
50 McCraney, Lenorris Footman, LaShaun Ealey, Anthony Williams Jr.,
51 A.J. Bruce, Quinton Cantue, Darryan Ragsdale, D'Andre Smith,
52 Warren Gatewood, Eric Foster, Quintin Smith, Daniel Franklin,
53 Kylan Johnson, Jeremiah Sams, Darius Dean, Christian Brown, Stacey
54 Garner, Damon Watkins, De'Lance Turner, Ashton Hall, Arron Baker,
55 Terry Whittington, Demetrious Whitehead, Trae Ferrell, Evan
56 Grimes, Josh Ivery, Darien Anderson, Jayron Harness, Michael
57 Lester, Michael Hurns, Terrell Williams, Solomon Muhammad, Ramonte
58 Bell, Darrell Henderson, Dwayne King, Jr., Julius Lawrence, Darien
59 Moody, Chris Matthews, Davonte Hill, Ferderrick Ross, Theron
60 Bonds, Pablo Williams, Jr., Iskeli Ongosia, Toto'a Leilua, Detonio
61 Dade, Deonte Brooks, Johnathan Scott, Jeffery Reno Jr., Ladonn
62 Bolden, Chris McCrea, Eric Snow, Edrick Thigpen, William Gordon,
63 Issac Sampson, Corbin Johnson, Raidarious Anderson, Stephen
64 Glover, LaDarrien Davis, Jalen Walker, Norlando Veals, Troy Hobbs,
65 Jr., Brandon Campbell, Lamarvin Ashley, Metise Moore, Kenyon
66 Brantley, Antonio Wells, Michael Ajumobi, Bryce Mingo-Bradley,
67 Michael Brooks, Jr., Johnathon Hauer, Jaquaveon Bolles, Deion
68 McNair, Ramone Atkins, MyShawn Smith; and



69 WHEREAS, coached by: Jay Hopson, head football coach; Fred
70 Kaiss, offensive coordinator; Tony Pecoraro, defensive
71 coordinator; Fred McNair, assistant head coach/quarterbacks coach;
72 Cedric Thomas, defensive backs coach; Wes Turner, linebackers
73 coach/videographer/football operations; Derek Nicholson, defensive
74 line coach; Shannon Harris, wide receivers coach; Ryan Stanchek,
75 offensive line coach; A.J. Antonescu, tight ends coach; Kenry
76 Tolbert, graduate assistant/defensive line; William Prince,
77 equipment manager/strength and conditioning coach; and Roderick
78 Young, head athletic trainer; and

79 WHEREAS, the 2015 Alcorn State University Braves Football
80 Team finished the season, ranked second overall amongst
81 Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and led their
82 conference in scoring defense, total defense, pass defense,
83 passing efficiency, sacks, third down conversions, rushing, first
84 downs and kickoff returns; and

85 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend and
86 recognize the outstanding achievement of teams, like the 2015
87 Alcorn State University Braves, which aside from demonstrating
88 dominance on the field, also serve as leaders of their school and
89 community, and have brought honor to their school, their community
90 and to the State of Mississippi:

91 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
92 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
93 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the Alcorn



94 State University Football Team, Head Coach Mr. Jay Hopson and the
95 entire coaching staff upon their remarkable season and winning the
96 Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship for the second
97 consecutive season, and extend to the team and coaches, best
98 wishes for continued success in all their future athletic and
99 academic endeavors.

100 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
101 furnished to Head Coach Jay Hopson, Director of Intercollegiate
102 Athletics, Mr. Derek Horne and to the members of the Capitol Press
103 Corps.

