

By: Representatives Rushing, Bounds, Evans
(45th), Hood, Roberson, Shirley, Mickens,
Miles, Walker, White

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE WARRIORS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR THEIR
3 EXCEPTIONAL 2015 SEASON.

4 WHEREAS, the East Central Community College (ECCC) Warriors
5 Football Team had an exceptional 2015 season, finishing with an
6 8-3 record under third-year Head Coach Ken Karcher, the college's
7 best record since 1999; and

8 WHEREAS, all three losses during the 2015 season were by a
9 combined total of 26 points to teams ranked in the Top 10 of the
10 final National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Top 20
11 Football Poll; and

12 WHEREAS, the Warriors finished second in the Mississippi
13 Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) South
14 Division with a 4-2 division record and qualified for the MACJC
15 State Playoffs for the first time since 2001; and

16 WHEREAS, the Warriors traveled to Senatobia, Mississippi, and
17 put on a gutsy performance in the MACJC semifinal game, falling



27-20 on a fourth quarter touchdown by Northwest Mississippi
Community College, the eventual State and National Champion; and

WHEREAS, the ECCC Warriors were invited to the C.H.A.M.P.S.
Heart of Texas (HOT) Bowl in Copperas Cove, Texas, their first
bowl invitation in 19 years and only the third invitation in the
college's 87-year history; and

WHEREAS, the Warriors were one of only 14 community college
teams in the nation that were invited to bowl games in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Warriors defeated Kilgore College by the score
of 35-21 to win the 2015 HOT Bowl trophy on December 5, 2015; and

WHEREAS, sophomore safety Austin Balthazor of Seminary High
School was named the Most Valuable Player of the 2015 HOT Bowl
after returning a fumble 90 yards for a touchdown and making six
tackles; and

WHEREAS, the Warriors were ranked No. 10 in the nation in the
final NJCAA Top 20 Football Poll for the 2015 season; and

WHEREAS, several members of the Warriors Football Team
received postseason recognition, including: Austin Balthazor,
Second Team All-State Defense; sophomore wide receiver Kabion Ento
of Dollarway High School in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, All-Region 23
and First Team All-State Offense; sophomore defensive lineman
Derek Mahaffey of Oxford High School, Alabama, All-Region 23 and
First Team All-State Defense; sophomore linebacker Eric McPherson
of Jim Hill High School in Jackson, Mississippi, First Team
All-State Defense; sophomore offensive lineman Hunter Soileau of



43 Forrest County High School, Mississippi, Second Team All-State
44 Offense; sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket of French Camp
45 Academy, Mississippi, First Team All-State Offense; sophomore
46 tight end Jordan Thomas of Sumrall High School, Mississippi,
47 Second Team All-State Offense; and sophomore offensive lineman
48 Eddie Houston of Newton High School, Mississippi, Second Team
49 All-State Offense; and

50 WHEREAS, in addition to receiving postseason recognition and
51 awards, several members of the Warrior Football Team were
52 recognized by their teammates and coaches for their hard work,
53 dedication and superior play in 2015, including: Austin Balthazor,
54 Defensive Captain Award; sophomore offensive lineman Micah Parten
55 of Northwest Rankin High School, Mississippi, Offensive Captain
56 Award; defensive lineman Jerry Magee of Collins High School,
57 Mississippi, Most Improved Defensive Player Award; Jesse Hosket,
58 Luke 2:52 Award and Academic Award; Jordan Thomas, Most Improved
59 Offensive Player Award; and Eddie Houston, Academic Award; and

60 WHEREAS, in recognition of his team's outstanding season,
61 Head Coach Ken Karcher was selected as the MACJC South Division
62 Coach of the Year; and

63 WHEREAS, many Warriors will continue their football careers
64 next fall at NCAA Division I and Division II colleges and
65 universities, including Mississippi State University, the
66 University of Colorado, University of Tennessee Chattanooga,
67 Nicholls State University, University of Central Arkansas,



68 Arkansas Tech University, University of Arkansas Monticello,
69 Northwestern State University, Southeastern Missouri State
70 University and Delta State University, among others; and

71 WHEREAS, the members of the Warriors Football Team have
72 developed a winning and cooperative spirit and a high degree of
73 sportsmanship, and their activities and attitude on and off the
74 field reflect great credit upon the individual players and their
75 coaches and bring honor to East Central Community College, the
76 team members' parents and hometown communities, and the State of
77 Mississippi as they have achieved these accolades the ECCC way,
78 "Excellence with Class"; and

79 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
80 and commend excellence, especially when evidenced by the young
81 adults of our state, who are its future:

82 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
83 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
84 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the East
85 Central Community College Warriors Football Team and Head Coach
86 Ken Karcher and his staff for their outstanding 2015 season, and
87 extend best wishes for continued success in all of their future
88 academic and athletic endeavors.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
90 furnished to East Central Community College President Dr. Billy
91 Stewart, Head Coach Ken Karcher and to the members of the Capitol
92 Press Corps.

