

By: Representatives Bell (65th), Summers

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 10

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE JACKSON STATE
2 UNIVERSITY "TIGERS" FOOTBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH T.C. TAYLOR UPON
3 WINNING THE 2024 SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (SWAC)
4 CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE 2024 CELEBRATION BOWL, MAKING THEM THE 2024
5 HBCU NATIONAL CHAMPIONS.

6 WHEREAS, the Jackson State University "Tigers" Football Team,
7 led by Coach T.C. Taylor, reigned supreme during the 2024 season,
8 winning the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Championship
9 and the 2024 HBCU National Championship; and

10 WHEREAS, the Tigers, who had a superior season that was
11 driven by more than just the yearning to succeed, intensely
12 amplified all of their hard work, motivation and audacity, which
13 were so apparent all through the season, for their historic
14 championship series runs; and

15 WHEREAS, Zy McDonald came off the bench late in the first
16 half, sparking a rally from Jackson State and leading the Tigers
17 to a 41-13 victory over Southern in the 2024 Pepsi SWAC
18 Championship Game presented by GM at Mississippi Veterans Memorial
19 Stadium; and



20 WHEREAS, the SWAC championship is the third in four years for
21 Jackson State (11-2), winners of nine straight games, and the
22 first for head coach and Jackson State alum, T.C. Taylor; and

23 WHEREAS, McDonald was named the Offensive MVP after leading a
24 touchdown drive to tie the game late in the first half, and he
25 also orchestrated five second-half scoring drives and finished
26 with 95 yards rushing on eight carries and a touchdown; and

27 WHEREAS, additionally, Zy McDonald also threw for 75 yards on
28 6-of-11 with a touchdown, and Irv Mulligan added 116 yards on 23
29 carries with a touchdown, while Travis Terrell, Jr., added 47
30 yards rushing and a touchdown for the Tigers who finished with 275
31 yards, and Jameel Gardner, Jr., had four receptions for 71 yards;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, defensively, during the SWAC Championship, Robert
34 McDaniel intercepted two passes including one to put an
35 exclamation on the game late, and was named Defensive MVP, and
36 Shamar Hawkins finished with eight tackles, a sack, and a tackle
37 for loss, while Ashton Taylor finished with seven tackles and a
38 sack, and Joshua Nobles finished with five tackles with a sack and
39 a forced fumble; and

40 WHEREAS, after claiming victory at the SWAC Championship, the
41 Tigers traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, for the Cricket Celebration
42 Bowl, where their dominance and perseverance continued; and

43 WHEREAS, Jackson State jumped out to a three-touchdown lead
44 early in the fourth quarter before South Carolina State (9-3) was



able to get on the board, and they put the game away with the second touchdown reception from Joanes Fortilien with 4:47 to play; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers used a 19-play, 78-yard drive to close the first quarter and open the second quarter culminating with a four-yard pass from Jacobian Morgan to Fortilien in the back of the end zone for a 7-0 lead, and they added to the lead with a pair of Irv Mulligan rushing touchdowns to take a 21-0 lead with 14:48 to play in the game; and

WHEREAS, Jackson State outgained South Carolina State 385-178 on the night in total yards including a 122-yard difference in rushing, and the Tigers finished the night with 152 yards to just 30 for South Carolina State with Irv Mulligan finishing with 71 yards on 25 carries, Emari Matthews finished with 55 yards on 11 carries, and Morgan 24 yards on 10 carries; and

WHEREAS, as the clock started to wind down late in the fourth quarter and emotions began to show on the Jackson State sideline, the Tigers lined up in victory formation to seal a 28-7 victory in the Cricket Celebration Bowl over South Carolina State to capture the 2024 HBCU National Championship with its tenth consecutive victory; and

WHEREAS, Morgan finished the day 15-of-21 for 233 yards with Fortilien leading the way with six receptions and 43 yards, and Isaiah Spencer finished with 123 yards on three receptions and Ja'Naylon Dupree had 31 yards on three receptions; and



70 WHEREAS, on defense, Shamar Hawkins finished with six tackles
71 and one interception, and Cameron Smith finished with five, and
72 the Tigers ended the night with three sacks and five tackles for
73 loss against South Carolina State; and

74 WHEREAS, the Tigers, who played with nothing but heart and
75 soul all season, have a very talented and distinguished roster,
76 and each player made a substantial contribution that led to one of
77 the most historic seasons in the history of the Tigers football
78 program; and

79 WHEREAS, the HBCU National Championship is the fourth in
80 school history, the first since 1996, and the first for
81 second-year head coach, T.C. Taylor; and

82 WHEREAS, Head Coach Taylor has superbly coached and
83 tremendously inspired the Tigers and broadened their knowledge of
84 the game while refining their skills in execution, and he
85 continues to build upon the legacy of superior play and true
86 sportsmanship forged by the tenacious and undaunted spirit of each
87 team member; and

88 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
89 recognize and commend outstanding Mississippi student-athletes,
90 especially those such as the Jackson State University "Tigers"
91 Football Team, whose hard work and perseverance bring honor to
92 their school, their community and the State of Mississippi:

93 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
94 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby



95 recognize and commend the Jackson State University "Tigers"
96 Football Team and Head Coach T.C. Taylor upon winning the 2024
97 Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Championship and the 2024
98 Celebration Bowl, making them the 2024 HBCU National Champions,
99 and extend to them best wishes for continued success in all their
100 future endeavors.

101 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
102 furnished to Head Coach T.C. Taylor and to the members of the
103 Capitol Press Corps.

