

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Frazier, Simmons
(12th), Blount, Thomas, Blackmon, Horhn,
England, Simmons (13th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 507

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY TIGERS FOOTBALL TEAM AND HEAD FOOTBALL
3 COACH TC TAYLOR FOR WINNING THEIR FIRST CELEBRATION BOWL, CLAIMING
4 THE HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES NATIONAL
5 CHAMPIONSHIP AND FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING 2024 SEASON.

6 WHEREAS, we join the team, coaches, students, administration,
7 alumni and fans of the Jackson State University Tigers Football
8 Team in celebrating the university's first Celebration Bowl
9 victory, which matches the winner of the Southwestern Athletic
10 Conference Championship (SWAC) against the winner of the Mid-
11 Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) to decide the (HBCU) National
12 Championship; and

13 WHEREAS, on December 14, 2024, at the Celebration Bowl, Coach
14 TC Taylor stood on the stage and threw both of his arms straight
15 up in the air before the Jackson State football coach grabbed the
16 silver Celebration Bowl trophy and hoisted it over his head as
17 blue, orange and white confetti rained down from above. A chant
18 from the Jackson State crowd at Mercedes-Benz Stadium began to



19 grow louder and louder as they chanted for TC Taylor, JSU's
20 second-year coach; and

21 WHEREAS, the Tigers (12-2) had just beaten South Carolina
22 State (9-3) in a dominant 28-7 win anchored by the defense. The
23 victory was JSU's first Celebration Bowl win, claiming the HBCU
24 national championship. A 17-game postseason losing streak was
25 also snapped; and

26 WHEREAS, Deion Sanders took Jackson State to the Celebration
27 Bowl twice, losing in 2021 and 2022. It only took two seasons for
28 TC Taylor to match and then top what Sanders accomplished with the
29 Celebration Bowl win; and

30 WHEREAS, Taylor said he realized the team could be special
31 when the roster came together in the offseason. Jacobian Morgan,
32 the offensive MVP of the Celebration Bowl, retook the starting
33 quarterback job that week. A few games later, the defense
34 developed into a unit that never allowed more than 21 points in
35 the final eight games; and

36 WHEREAS, when Jackson State needed it most against South
37 Carolina State, the defense delivered. Morgan threw an
38 interception on the second play of the third quarter, setting up
39 the South Carolina Bulldogs on a short field only trailing 14-0.
40 An 11-yard sack on third down by Ashton Taylor booted them out of
41 field goal range. Three times the Bulldogs gained possession in
42 Tigers' territory but came away with zero points. Even after
43 Jackson State missed a field goal with five and a half minutes to



44 play that would have pushed the lead to three possessions, the
45 defense came through again with an interception. Morgan threw a
46 14-yard touchdown pass to Joanes Fortilien on the next play to
47 seal the win; and

48 WHEREAS, the seven points allowed were the fewest in the
49 nine-game Celebration Bowl history. The 21-point margin of
50 victory also tied the most in Celebration Bowl history. That was
51 last achieved when South Carolina State defeated Sanders' Jackson
52 State 31-10 in 2021; and

53 WHEREAS, "Coach TC, knew what it looked like," said defensive
54 lineman Jeremiah Williams, the game's defensive MVP. "It's why he
55 won SWAC Coach of the Year. We've been here three times, and he
56 knew he was going to get it done eventually. It was the small
57 things. He put the pieces together"; and

58 WHEREAS, the Jackson State University National Championship
59 2024 Football Roster: Travis Terrell, Jr., Jeremiah Williams,
60 Rico Powers, Jr., Ke'Vric Wiggins, Jr., Ja'Naylon Dupree, Joshua
61 Nobles, Robert McDaniel, Zy McDonald, Tyquan Henderson, Tru
62 Thompson, Irv Mulligan, Cameron Smith, Esaias Guthrie, Cam'Ron
63 McCoy, Jameel Gardner, Jr., Reid Pulliam, J.D. Martin, Jaeden
64 Ward, Fabian McCray, B.J. Washington, Mike Smith III, Isaiah
65 Spencer, Allen Walker, Nireek Sharpe, Parker Stofa, Day Day
66 Bright, Richard Mays, Jr., Bryson Moss, Jacobian Morgan, Micah
67 Cherry, Joanes Fortilien, K.J. Chisolm, Errick Simmons, Austin
68 Edmonds, Ethan Terrell, Brandon Mitchell, Kobe Paul, Desmond



69 Moultrie, Nate Blount IV, Javarian Jenkins, Anthony Petty, Shamar
70 Hawkins, Josh Higgins, Javion Posey, Ahmad Miller, Joe Perkins,
71 Kobe Boykin, Ashton Taylor, Frankie Dunn, Jr., Daved Jones, Jr.,
72 John Brown, Leilani Armenta, Ezequiel Johnson, Donovan Warren,
73 Gerardo Baeza, Phillip Webb, Braxton Barney, Avery Salerno, Jace
74 Ward, Hunter Burns, Kenneth Jiles, Jr., Derrell Holston, Matt
75 Noll, Emari Matthews, Tymon Wells, J'Cori Hargon, Earick Williams
76 III, Douglas Fowler, Athen Smith, Bryce Owens, Cameron James,
77 Devin Love, Cyson Burk, Almetrius Smith, Jr., Brian Williams, Jr.,
78 Mason Barton, Jackson King, Success Chikezie, Zyion Walker,
79 Dequarious White, Kirk Ford, Jr., Evan Henry, Isaiah Villanneuva,
80 Kai Gadson, D'Andre Townes-Blue, Xavion Davis, Antonio Ross, Jr.,
81 Bruno Zandamela, Quaveon Davis, Jency Riley, Sebastien
82 Saint-Louis, Darren Bennett, Derek Scott, Marvin Landy, Marcadi
83 Johnson, Dimonyai Lacey, Zalan Barrett, Stanley Cooks, Kazarius
84 Bowie, Zyion Gilmore and Tyas Martin; and

85 WHEREAS, the 2024 Jackson State University Championship
86 Football Coaching Staff: TC Taylor, Head Coach; Otis Riddley,
87 Associate Head Coach/TE/General Manager; Torenzo Quinn, Defensive
88 Coordinator/Defensive Backs; Manny Ramirez, Run Game
89 Coordinator/Offensive Line; Eric Gallon, Running Backs; Vincent
90 Marshall, Wide Receivers; Rip Kirk, Quarterbacks; Chris Orr,
91 Linebackers; Kali James, Defensive Run Game Coordinator/Defensive
92 Line; Mario Magana, Jr., Cornerbacks; Javancy Jones, Special Teams
93 Coordinator/Outside Linebackers; Football Support Staff, Kiasha



94 Trammell, Director of Football Operations; Austin Robinson,
95 Director of Media Services; Jaylon Watson, Director of Football
96 Sports Performance; Brandon Morton, Director of Recruiting; Tenoa
97 Alex, Jr., Defensive Analyst; Kaleb Graham, Offensive Analyst;
98 Aaron Jackson, Defensive Analyst; and Bobby Mitchell, Offensive
99 Analyst; and

100 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
101 championship Mississippi university team which has brought honor
102 to their university, their community and to the State of
103 Mississippi:

104 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
105 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
106 we do hereby commend and congratulate the Jackson State University
107 Tigers Football Team and Head Coach TC Taylor for winning their
108 first Celebration Bowl, for claiming the Historically Black
109 Colleges and Universities Championship and for their outstanding
110 2024 season, and extend to the team, coaches, administration and
111 sponsors our best wishes for future success.

112 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
113 Coach TC Tayler and the Jackson State University Tigers, forwarded
114 to JSU President Marcus Thompson and the Board of Trustees of
115 State Institutions of Higher Learning and made available to the
116 Capitol Press Corp.

