

Chapter No. 2017
14/HR12/R1832
for 1 year

**HOUSE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
No. 45**

Originated in House  Clerk

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND SALUTING THE EAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIONS FOOTBALL TEAM AND COACH OF THE YEAR BUDDY STEPHENS FOR WINNING THEIR SECOND NJCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN THREE YEARS AND NUMBER ONE RANKING IN THE FINAL NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION POLL.

WHEREAS, East Mississippi Community College achieved a Magnolia state first at the 2013 Mississippi Bowl, winning the first national championship on Mississippi soil; and

WHEREAS, a heavy running attack and a strong second half performance powered No. 2 East Mississippi to a 52-32 win over No. 1 Georgia Military at Biloxi Indian Stadium on Sunday, December 8, 2013, clinching East Mississippi's second National Junior College Athletic Association title in the last three years; and

WHEREAS, East Mississippi (12-0) Coach Buddy Stephens has coached great teams during his six-year tenure, but this year's squad could be his best yet as the Lions overwhelmed their opponents all season long - they outscored teams 747-119 in 12 victories - through a potent combo of dominant defense and powerful offense; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges 2013 State Champion, East Mississippi Community College also won the 2011 NJCAA National Championship with a victory in the El Toro Bowl in Yuma, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the Lions rode big offensive performances from Lakenderic Thomas, Antoine Adkins and Dontreal Pruitt to a national title victory, and Adkins was chosen East Mississippi Community College's Most Valuable Offensive Player in the contest after hauling in several acrobatic catches and finishing with six receptions for 186 yards and two touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, Pruitt, who threw for 340 yards and three scores, was chosen as the Mississippi Bowl Committee's Player of the Year, and Thomas bulldozed his way through the Georgia Military defense, carrying tacklers on his way to a punishing 234-yard, three-touchdown rushing performance; and

WHEREAS, "So many of our guys had big games or made big plays that all contributed to the win in the end," East Mississippi Community College Head Coach Buddy Stephens said. "I could not be prouder of the way our young men played and for all they accomplished. Our guys were looking forward to this from the very first day of summer. They were focused and showed tremendous leadership. Our administration had a vision to make our athletics successful and let the school build off that success and they have given us everything we needed to be successful."; and

WHEREAS, defensive lineman Jimmie Gipson III was chosen as his team's Most Valuable Defensive Player after being in on four sacks in the championship game; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 East Mississippi Community College Football Roster was comprised of: Dontreal Pruitt, QB; A.J. Stamps, DB; Kameron Myers, WR; Earnest Robinson, WR; Brandon Acker, WR; Justin Mack, WR; Ken Breland, DB; J.T. Tolbert, WR; Allen Sentimore, DB; C.J. Bates, WR; Antoine Adkins, WR; Todd Mays, QB/RB; Brett Thompson, QB; Brandon Bell, WR; Fenest Armstrong, DB; Isaac Johnson, WR; Terrence Barron, WR; Jorrell Thurmon, WR; Christian Russell, LB; Demetrius Cain, LB; Preston Baker, RB; Laderrick Roberts, LB; Lakenderic Thomas, RB; Deshadrick Truly, DB; Quan Latham, DB; Jessie Gill, DB; Byerson Cockrell, DB; William Lloyd, LB; Defond Bester, LB; C.J. Shepherd, LB; Morgan Rhodes, PK; Jimmie Gipson III, DL; Benny McCall, LB; Justin Lucas, LB; JaQarius Scott, DL; Blake Sharp, OL; Chris Berry, OL; Wiley Maddox, OL; Evan Grimes, DS; Jacob Feeley, OL; Avery Gennesy, OL; Kenney Averhart, OL; Jamal Danley, OL; Brandon Hodges, OL; David Mahaffey, OL; Jamaal White, OL; Drew White, PK/P; D.J. Pettway, DL; Jarran Reed, DL; Marco Montgomery, DL; Zavia Forshee, DL; D.J. Jones, DL; Wesley Ragin, DL; Austin Roberts, DL; Jamison Goins, DL; Head Coach Buddy Stephens; Assistant Coaches: Marcus Wood (OC/WRs), Jordan Lesley (DC/ILBs), Clifton Collins (DBs), Scott Gasper (QBs), DeCarlos Holmes (DL), D.J. Looney (OL), and Webb

Hamilton (OLBs); Graduate Assistant Coach Derrick Steele; and Student Assistant Coach Daniel Lott; and

WHEREAS, this second national championship was a fitting way to remember legendary Coach Bull Sullivan whose strict disciplinary coaching methods and success were the topic of a famous *Sports Illustrated* article "The Toughest Coach There Ever Was," and it is with great pride that we note this second national championship by a team that has brought honor to its college, its community and to the State of Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN, That we do hereby recognize and salute the East Mississippi Community College Lions Football Team and Head Coach Buddy Stephens for winning the National Junior College Athletic Association National Championship, its second title in three years, and its number one ranking in the final National Junior College Athletic Association Poll, and extend best wishes to the team and coaches for continued success in all of their future athletic and academic endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be furnished to

Coach Buddy Stephens, East Mississippi Community College President
Dr. Rick Young and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 11, 2014



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE
February 18, 2014



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE