

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 613  
By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor Kendall Newson, star Middle Tennessee State University wide receiver, on a great season.

WHEREAS, Kendall Newson, Middle Tennessee State University wide receiver, played a key role in the tremendous success the Blue Raider squad enjoyed during the 2001 season, including their Sun Belt Conference championship; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Kendall had 30 receptions for 415 yards, an average of 13.8 yards per catch and four touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, he had 60 receptions for 918 yards, an average of 13.3 yards per catch and five touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, his excellent statistics included ranking ninth nationally in receptions per game (6.73) and ranking 24<sup>th</sup> in receiving yards per game (85.910), ranking 25<sup>th</sup> nationally in total receiving yards (945), breaking his own single-season reception record with 74, hauling in nine passes for a career high of 180 yards (third highest total in school history), against Number 20 ranked Mississippi State on the road, and equaling his single-season high

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with four 100-yard receiving games; three of those 100 yard games came against strong competition (the SEC's Mississippi State, the Big Ten's Illinois, and the ACC's Maryland); against Florida, Maryland and Mississippi State he averaged 7.8 catches per game; and

WHEREAS, he was named the twentieth best collegiate receiver by the preseason *The Sporting News* poll and First Team All-Independent by *College Football News*; and

WHEREAS, his 2001 statistics were very impressive, he equaled the school record with 12 receptions in an important win over New Mexico State and also had a personal best 181 receiving yards; in this dramatic comeback victory against New Mexico State, Kendall had a phenomenal seven catches for 119 yards in the fourth quarter; and

WHEREAS, during 2001, Kendall caught seven touchdowns passes, which was the most in his career and tied the record for most in school history; he also ranked among the nation's leaders in receptions per game (5.90) and in receiving yards per game (72.40), had four 100-yard receiving games, and was second in the Sun Belt Conference in receptions; and

WHEREAS, after the 2001 season was completed, Kendall Newson was prominently mentioned as an All-American candidate. He also was selected First Team All-Sun Belt Conference, was chosen to play in the 2002 Hula Bowl, and was rated as one of the top receivers in the nation by various National Football League Draft publications; he was voted the Sun Belt Conference Offensive Player of the Week for October 29, 2001; and

WHEREAS, his career statistics are AWESOME. He is the schools all-time leading receiver with 238 catches in just 43 games, and holds the school record for career receiving yards with 3,074; he reached the coveted 2,000 receiving yard mark in only 29 games breaking the previous school record of 37 games; he caught at least one pass in 43 straight games, the third longest streak in the nation and a school record, and holds the school record (13) for 100-yard receiving games; and

WHEREAS, Kendall also tied a school record with twenty-one touchdown passes caught in his career, and hauled in at least eight passes in a contest 13 times. His career single-game bests include: 12 catches, 181 yards, and two touchdowns (three times); and

WHEREAS, his coach, Andy McCollum, has paid special tribute to him, stating: "Kendall Newson is the fiercest competitor I have ever been around in my career as a coach. He is the total package"; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to honor this very talented player; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Kendall Newson on his outstanding football career at MTSU and his numerous athletic accomplishments, including being an All-American candidate, and wish him much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.