

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 261

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Brigham Young University head football coach Bronco Mendenhall.

WHEREAS, the citizens of this great State and their elected representatives are extremely proud to honor and recognize those estimable coaches in college football who guide their teams to extraordinary success on the gridiron through hard work and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Bronco Mendenhall is one such estimable coach who has served with distinction during his four seasons as head football coach for Brigham Young University (BYU); and

WHEREAS, during his four seasons as the head football coach at BYU, Bronco Mendenhall has returned the BYU Cougars to the ranks of the nation's top teams; and

WHEREAS, after taking over a BYU football program that had not enjoyed a winning season since 2001, Mendenhall has guided his teams to four straight bowl invitations, two outright Mountain West Conference (MWC) championships, and consistent national top twenty-five rankings; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, during his first year as head coach, Bronco Mendenhall led BYU to a 6-6 season and received an invitation to the Pioneer Las Vegas Bowl, the team's first post-season bowl appearance in three years. Over the next two years, he coached the Cougars to back-to-back eleven win seasons and claimed consecutive MWC titles with a combined record of 16-0 against league opponents; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mendenhall's overall record of 38-13 has featured many memorable moments, including three consecutive ten win seasons, the BYU Cougars being undefeated at

home for the past three seasons, the dominating performance displayed by the Cougars in 38-8 victory against Oregon in the 2006 Pioneer Las Vegas Bowl, and the 59-0 shellacking of UCLA in the 2007 Pioneer Las Vegas Bowl; and

WHEREAS, a student-athlete himself, Bronco Mendenhall was raised in Alpine, Utah, and graduated from American Fork High School in 1984; and

WHEREAS, he was a two-year starter at the cornerback position for Snow College from 1984 to 1985, and in 1985 he was the captain of the Snow College football team that posted a perfect 11-0 record and won the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) national championship. He was recognized for his tremendous athletic prowess and hard work in the classroom when he was named to the All-Conference first team, the All-Region first team, the NJCAA All-American second team, and a Junior College Gridwire Academic All-American; and

WHEREAS, Bronco Mendenhall transferred to Oregon State University (OSU) in 1986 and was a two-year starter at safety and linebacker for the OSU Beavers. He was a team captain as a senior and received the Leo Gribkoff Memorial Award, which is given to the team's most inspirational player; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his bachelor's degree in education in 1988 from OSU, Bronco Mendenhall entered the coaching profession as a graduate assistant for his alma mater; and

WHEREAS, he served as secondary coach and defensive coordinator for Snow College after receiving his master's degree in education with an emphasis in exercise physiology from OSU in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mendenhall spent several seasons on the staffs of Oregon State University, Snow College, Northern Arizona University, Louisiana Technical College, and the University of New Mexico, honing his coaching skills as an assistant coach prior to being chosen to lead the BYU Cougars football program; and

WHEREAS, while at the University of New Mexico for five seasons, he served as defensive coordinator and assistant head coach of the football team, earning the respect and admiration of his peers and players alike for his hard work and dedication. Under the tutelage

and expertise of Coach Mendenhall, the New Mexico Lobos led the MWC in rushing defense for three straight seasons and were ranked at the top in total defense in his last season; and

WHEREAS, after joining the BYU football staff in 2003 as Defensive Coordinator, Coach Mendenhall took over as Head Coach in 2005, and has steadily regained national prominence for the storied BYU football program; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Coach Mendenhall has evidenced an unswerving commitment to excellence that has earned him many awards and decorations, including the BYU Cougar Club Assistant Coach of the Year in 2003, the American Football Coaches Association Region IV Coach of the Year in 2006, and he was named as a finalist for the FWAAs Eddie Robinson National Coach of the Year Award in 2006; and

WHEREAS, perhaps the most treasured compliment Coach Mendenhall has received comes from the many accomplishments achieved by his former football players, including current National Football League All-Star and linebacker for the Chicago Bears, Brian Urlacher; and

WHEREAS, his momentous achievements aside, Coach Mendenhall is most proud of the love and support of his wife, Holly Johnston Mendenhall; and their children, Cutter, Breaker, and Raeder; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mendenhall is one of the most respected and esteemed figures in intercollegiate football competition; his coaching skills and abilities have garnered him the admiration of football fans and purists throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body, in conjunction with the Chattanooga Chapter of the BYU Alumni Association, is especially proud to pause in its deliberations to recognize this fine man and his extraordinary life and coaching accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Brigham Young University head football coach Bronco Mendenhall for his many accomplishments and contributions to college football,

applaud him for his vaunted level of success and his dedication to excellence, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success in all his future endeavors.

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