

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 765

By Hodges

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Austin Peay State University Governors football team, 2019 Ohio Valley Conference Champions.

WHEREAS, we are pleased to specially honor and commend those successful college teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors for this State; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Peay State University (APSU) football team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2019 season, winning the coveted Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Football Championship for just the second time, the team's first league title since 1977; and

WHEREAS, the Governors also garnered the program's first nine-win season and earned the team's first-ever Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoff appearance in the NCAA Division I Football Championship; and

WHEREAS, in the playoffs, the Governors defeated Furman University in Clarksville and Sacramento State University on the road to advance to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division I Football Championship; and

WHEREAS, in the greatest football season in APSU history, the Governors finished the season with an 11-4 record, setting the program record for wins in a season while defeating four teams ranked in the NCAA (FCS) Top 25 and earning a final ranking of ninth in the STATS FCS poll and tenth in the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) FCS Coaches poll; and

WHEREAS, the Governors received multiple awards and accolades in recognition of their tremendous season, as a program-record eleven players were recognized on All-OVC

Teams, including JaVaughn Craig, Kentel Williams, Blake Mitchell, Kyle Anderton, Josephus Smith, Kordell Jackson, and Juantarius Bryant; and

WHEREAS, defensive back Kordell Jackson was a consensus First-Team All-American and named the FCS Athletics Directors Association's Defensive Back of the Year, while teammates Kyle Anderton, JaVaughn Craig, and DeAngelo Wilson joined him as All-American selections; and

WHEREAS, the Governors enjoyed the tremendous efforts of an exemplary coaching staff led by APSU Head Coach Mark Hudspeth, who was named the OVC Roy Kidd Coach of the Year and the AFCA Region 3 Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, all told, the 2019 Austin Peay football team set program single-season records for total offensive yardage, passing yards, passing touchdowns, pass efficiency, points scored, and total touchdowns during the season; and

WHEREAS, an exceptional group of young men, the Governors posted a program record 3.022 grade point average during the fall semester, breaching the 3.0 mark for the first time in program history, with sixty-two members of the team finishing the fall semester with at least a 3.0 individual grade point average; and

WHEREAS, championships are achieved only through hard work, dedication, and the ability to work together as a team and excel with a cooperative spirit; the Governors exhibited each of these rare qualities during their championship season; and

WHEREAS, the football players of Austin Peay State University epitomize all that is good in today's student athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success on the field and in the classroom while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the field; they inspired their fellow students and united the entire community during their triumphant run through the 2019 season; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a championship football season but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Governors of Austin Peay State University at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate the Austin Peay State University football team for claiming the 2019 Ohio Valley Conference Football Championship, extending our best wishes for 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.