

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013

SR 5

4
5 By: Senator Bookout

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 TO CONGRATULATE THE ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY RED
9 WOLVES FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING BACK-TO-BACK SUN
10 BELT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE 2013
11 GODADDY.COM BOWL.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO CONGRATULATE THE ARKANSAS STATE
16 UNIVERSITY RED WOLVES FOOTBALL TEAM FOR
17 WINNING BACK-TO-BACK SUN BELT CONFERENCE
18 CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE 2013 GODADDY.COM
19 BOWL.

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21 WHEREAS, the Arkansas State University Red Wolves won the 2012 Sun Belt
22 Conference Championship for a second straight year with a 45-0 victory over
23 Middle Tennessee State University at Liberty Bank Stadium in Jonesboro,
24 Arkansas, on Saturday, December 1, 2012, in front of a stadium-record 31,243
25 fans; and

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27 WHEREAS, the Red Wolves won the 2011 and 2012 Sun Belt Conference
28 championships with a combined 15-1 league record over the last two seasons;
29 and

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31 WHEREAS, Arkansas State defeated Kent State 17-13 in the 2013
32 GoDaddy.com Bowl on January 6, beating a team that was ranked 25th in the
33 nation according to the Associated Press rankings; and

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35 WHEREAS, the Red Wolves ended the 2012 season on an eight-game winning
36 streak, the second longest in the nation, to finish the season with a 10-3



1 record; and

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3 WHEREAS, the Red Wolves became the first team in the history of the Sun
4 Belt Conference to win 10 games in 2 consecutive seasons; and

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6 WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Red Wolves led the Sun Belt Conference in
7 both scoring offense and scoring defense in 2012; and

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9 WHEREAS, senior quarterback Ryan Aplin, who graduated from Arkansas
10 State on December 15, 2012, was named Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year
11 for a second straight year, and broke the conference career records for total
12 offensive yards, passing yards, and completions; and

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14 WHEREAS, freshman wide receiver J.D. McKissic was Sun Belt Conference
15 Freshman of the Year, led the nation's freshmen with 103 receptions, and was
16 one of 30 Football Bowl Subdivision players named to the Football Writers
17 Association of America Freshman All-American Team; and

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19 WHEREAS, in 10 of the last 11 years the Red Wolves football team has
20 won the Sun Belt Conference Team Academic Award; and

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22 WHEREAS Arkansas State's average home game attendance of 26,398 for the
23 2012 season was a school record; and

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25 WHEREAS, Fort Smith native Gus Malzahn led the Red Wolves as head coach
26 during the regular season; and

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28 WHEREAS, Forrest City native John Thompson served as defensive
29 coordinator during the successful regular season and as interim head coach in
30 leading the team's GoDaddy.com Bowl victory; and

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32 WHEREAS, Bryan Harsin became the 29th head football coach of Arkansas
33 State on December 12, 2012, following a distinguished career as offensive
34 coordinator at two nationally prominent universities; and

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36 WHEREAS, Director of Athletics Terry Mohajir and his staff provided

1 exceptional leadership in the operations of the Athletics Department to
2 support the success of the student-athletes; and

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4 WHEREAS; Arkansas State had the following, league-high 10 players named
5 to the 2012 All-Sun Belt Conference team: first-team selections quarterback
6 Ryan Aplin, junior running back David Oku, senior offensive lineman Zach
7 McKnight, junior offensive lineman Ryan Carrethers, and senior linebacker
8 Nathan Herrold; second-team selections wide receiver J.D. McKissic, defensive
9 end Tim Starson, and kicker Brian Davis; and honorable mention selections
10 wide receiver Taylor Stockemer and linebacker Qushaun Lee,

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12 NOW THEREFORE,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
14 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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16 THAT the Arkansas State University Red Wolves football team be congratulated
17 for an outstanding 2012 season, back-to-back Sun Belt Conference
18 championships, and its impressive victory in the 2013 GoDaddy.com Bowl.