

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

SR 31

4
5 By: Senator B. Ballinger

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 TO HONOR COACH TOM HARRELL AS THE LONGEST-TENURED
9 ACTIVE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH IN THE STATE OF
10 ARKANSAS.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 TO HONOR COACH TOM HARRELL AS THE
15 LONGEST-TENURED ACTIVE HIGH SCHOOL
16 FOOTBALL COACH IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

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19 WHEREAS, Coach Tom Harrell will coach his thirty-second season with the
20 Mountainburg Dragons High School football program this fall and retire from
21 coaching and education in December 2021; and

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23 WHEREAS, Coach Harrell played high school football as a free safety at
24 Alma High School under Coach Frank Vines in the late 1970s and early 1980s;
25 and

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27 WHEREAS, Coach Harrell attended Westark Community College for a year
28 and a half and then attended Arkansas Tech University where he decided to go
29 into coaching; and

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31 WHEREAS, while attending Arkansas Tech University, Coach Harrell
32 assisted Coach Rick Rachel at Danville High School and completed his student
33 teaching under Coach Vines at Alma High School; and

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35 WHEREAS, after graduating from Arkansas Tech University in 1987, Coach
36 Harrell applied and interviewed for a junior basketball coaching job that was



1 open at Mountainburg High School; and

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3 WHEREAS, although Coach Harrell was not hired for the junior basketball
4 coaching job, he was offered a football coaching position at Mountainburg
5 High School; and

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7 WHEREAS, Coach Harrell was named the head football coach at
8 Mountainburg High School before the start of the 1990 season; and

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10 WHEREAS, under Coach Harrell, the Dragons are in their most successful
11 decade of the program with over sixty-seven (67) wins and have not had a
12 losing season since the 2000s; and

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14 WHEREAS, Coach Harrell has been flexible when it comes to adapting an
15 offense to his players, stating that "You've got to know the kids that you're
16 dealing with. Mountainburg kids are a little different than kids at some
17 schools. I know some coaches that they have a system, and they're going to
18 find kids to run their system. They've got enough kids to choose from. At a
19 school like this, you have to find a system that fits your kids"; and

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21 WHEREAS, Coach Harrell has also been creative when it comes to finding
22 ways for his team to be successful, stating that "I'm very creative and it's
23 more suited for a small school to be that way. I'm going to try to find some
24 advantage for our kids. It may be something crazy"; and

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26 WHEREAS, Coach Harrell joins legends Coach Mike Malham of Cabot, Coach
27 Jarrell Williams of Springdale, Coach David Alpe of Malvern, Coach Bernie Cox
28 of Little Rock Central, Coach Sam Coleman of Camden, and Coach Frank Vines of
29 Alma as a coach who has spent at least thirty (30) years at one (1) school,

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31 NOW THEREFORE,

32 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
33 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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35 THAT the Senate honor Coach Tom Harrell as the longest-tenured active
36 high school football coach in the State of Arkansas.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided to Coach Tom Harrell by the Secretary of the Senate.