

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR55577-LG-629 (12/18)

Sponsors: Senator Goss.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S
2 FOOTBALL TEAM ON WINNING ITS THIRD STRAIGHT NATIONAL
3 CHAMPIONSHIP.

4 Whereas, on December 14, 2007, the Mountaineers won the 2007 National
5 Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Division I Football Championship
6 Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) title, defeating the University of Delaware by a
7 score of 49-21; and

8 Whereas, the Mountaineers victory earned the team its third straight national
9 title, the first Division I Football Championship Subdivision team to achieve this honor;
10 and

11 Whereas, the Mountaineers had an outstanding season beginning with its first
12 game by upsetting nationally ranked No. 5, the University of Michigan, by a score of
13 34-32; and

14 Whereas, the Mountaineers' victory over the Wolverines secured them a place
15 in college football history because they are the first Division I Football Championship
16 Subdivision team to defeat a Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A) team
17 that was ranked in the Associated Press college football poll; and

18 Whereas, the Mountaineers' triumph over the Wolverines influenced the
19 Associated Press to change its 71-year-old policy of allowing only Football Bowl
20 Subdivision teams to be eligible for its Top 25 Poll; and

21 Whereas, the Mountaineers ended their 2007 season as the co-champions of
22 the Southern Conference with an overall record of 13-2; and

23 Whereas, the Mountaineers received five points in the final Associated Press
24 Top 25 Poll, tying them for 34th place; and

25 Whereas, individual team honors and recognitions included several players
26 named as all-Americans by the College Sports Report, five players named to the
27 Southern Conference TIAA-CREF academic all-conference team, and players selected

1 as candidates for the 2007 Walter Payton Award and the 2007 Buck Buchanan Award;
2 and

3 Whereas, head coach, Jerry Moore, in his 19th season at Appalachian State
4 University, was named the 2007 NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision
5 Coach of the Year, becoming the first Division I coach in the organization's 73-year
6 history to receive the honor three straight years; and

7 Whereas, Coach Moore also has the distinction of having the most number of
8 wins of any coach in Southern Conference history with a record of 161-70 while at
9 Appalachian State University; and

10 Whereas, the success of the men's football program along with the many
11 academic achievements of the student body is part of a long-standing tradition of
12 excellence at Appalachian State University; and

13 Whereas, these extraordinary accomplishments of the players and coaches of
14 the men's football program bring great honor and distinction to the State of North
15 Carolina and deserve recognition; and

16 Whereas, it is also fitting to recognize the Mountaineers' outstanding support
17 base, which includes alumni and former athletes; and

18 Whereas, one of those supporters included Lester Hardin, a former
19 Mountaineer who played for the football team between 1947 and 1952; and

20 Whereas, after graduating from Appalachian State University in 1952, Lester
21 Hardin remained loyal to his alma mater, attending athletic activities and helping to
22 raise funds for the athletic department; and

23 Whereas, for many years, Lester Hardin organized reunions of football
24 players who played at Appalachian State University under coach C.E. Duggin; and

25 Whereas, Lester Hardin died on February 20, 2008, leaving the entire
26 Appalachian State University community saddened by his death; Now, therefore,
27 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

28 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly expresses the appreciation and
29 admiration of the people of North Carolina to the men's football team at Appalachian
30 State University for winning the 2007 NCAA Division I National Football
31 Championship and recognizes the achievements of the team members, head coach,
32 assistant coaches, and other staff members.

33 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Lester Hardin
34 for his unwavering support of Appalachian State University and the University's athletic
35 teams.

36 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a copy of this resolution
37 to Appalachian State University Chancellor Kenneth Peacock, Athletics Director
38 Charlie Cobb, Head Football Coach Jerry Moore, and the family of Lester Hardin.

39 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.