

By: Senator Bookout

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

Subtitle

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

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

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

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

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



record; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Director of Athletics Terry Mohajir and his staff provided

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

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

NOW THEREFORE,

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

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