

By: Representative Sullivan

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO CONGRATULATE THE ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY RED
WOLVES FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE SUN BELT
CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE AUTONATION CURE BOWL.

Subtitle

TO CONGRATULATE THE ARKANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY RED WOLVES FOOTBALL TEAM FOR
WINNING THE SUN BELT CONFERENCE
CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE AUTONATION CURE
BOWL.

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State University Red Wolves football team won the 2016 Sun Belt Conference Championship for a 2nd straight year; and

WHEREAS, the Red Wolves became the only FBS program in the nation to win 5 conference titles over the last 6 seasons; and

WHEREAS, the Red Wolves defeated the University of Central Florida on December 17, 2016, in Orlando with a final score of 31-13 in the AutoNation Cure Bowl; and

WHEREAS, the team ended the 2016 season by winning 8 of its last 9 games to post an 8-5 overall record; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas State became 1 of just 2 programs in history to win 5 Sun Belt Conference championships; and



WHEREAS, Arkansas State made a school record with a 6th consecutive bowl game appearance; and

WHEREAS, junior defensive end Ja'Von Rolland-Jones was named the Sun Belt Conference Most Valuable Player and broke the conference records for single season and career sacks; and

WHEREAS, senior wide receiver Kendall Sanders was named the AutoNation Cure Bowl Most Valuable Player after tying the school record for touchdowns scored in postseason game; and

WHEREAS, in 11 of the last 14 years, including 2015, the Red Wolves football team has won the Sun Belt Conference Team Academic Award; and

WHEREAS, the Red Wolves claimed a 35-3 victory over then-ranked No. 25 Troy State on November 17, 2016, to claim their 2nd win over a Top 25 team since joining the FBS in 1992; and

WHEREAS, the Red Wolves put together its 6th consecutive winning season for the 1st time since 1917; and

WHEREAS, Blake Anderson, born in Jonesboro, led Arkansas State as head coach and now has the most wins of any head coach in school history over his first 3 seasons at the school; and

WHEREAS, the Red Wolves led the nation in tackles for loss; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas State posted its 12th consecutive season with a winning record at Centennial Bank Stadium; and

WHEREAS, the Red Wolves' 8 wins gave the program 52 victories over the last 6 seasons to rank as the 23rd-highest in the nation over that span; and

WHEREAS, 16 players who have already earned their degrees from Arkansas State University competed in the AutoNation Cure Bowl; 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 16 players named All-Sun Belt Conference this year to match the most in school history, including first-team selections senior offensive lineman Jemar Clark, senior defensive end Chris Odom, junior defensive end Ja'Von Rolland-Jones, and senior defensive back Money Hunter; second-team selections junior tight end Blake Mack, senior offensive lineman Colton Jackson, senior linebacker Xavier Woodson-Luster, senior defensive back Cody Brown, sophomore defensive back Justin Clifton, junior return specialist and cornerback Blaise Taylor, sophomore running back Warren Wand; honorable mention selections sophomore quarterback Justice Hansen, senior defensive back Chris Humes, senior defensive lineman Waylon Roberson, and senior wide receiver Kendall Sanders; and newcomer-team selection junior linebacker Kyle Wilson,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives congratulates the Arkansas State University Red Wolves football team for their outstanding 2016 season, back-to-back Sun Belt Conference championships, and victory in the 2016 AutoNation Cure Bowl.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon the adoption of this resolution, a copy shall be transmitted to the Chancellor of Arkansas State University by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.