

By: Senator B. Ballinger

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

Subtitle

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

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

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

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

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

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



open at Mountainburg High School; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE,

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

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

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