

By: Representatives Brooks, Eaves, Wing, Bentley

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE THE HARDING UNIVERSITY BISONS FOOTBALL
TEAM AS THE 2023 NCAA DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONS.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE THE HARDING UNIVERSITY
BISONS FOOTBALL TEAM AS THE 2023 NCAA
DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONS.

WHEREAS, the Harding University Bisons finished off an undefeated season by beating the Colorado School of Mines Orediggers to claim the NCAA Division II Football Championship in front of a crowd of more than twelve thousand (12,000) attendees; and

WHEREAS, Harding University became the first team in the history of college football to rush for more than six thousand yards (6,000 yds.) in a season, with the offense rushing for five hundred two yards (502 yds.) in the championship game; and

WHEREAS, the Bisons finished as the top rushing offense nationally, with six thousand one hundred sixty yards (6,160 yds.) and seventy-nine (79) rushing touchdowns, averaging four hundred eleven yards (411 yds.) rushing per contest; and

WHEREAS, the Bison defense was equally strong, finishing second nationally in scoring defense by allowing only ten point nine (10.9) points per game and finishing fifth in total defense by surrendering an average of only two hundred forty-seven yards (247 yds.) per contest; and



WHEREAS, the Bison special teams was also impressive, with the kickers averaging forty-one yards (41 yds.) per punt and connecting on eighty percent (80%) of field goal attempts; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Paul Simmons stated "I think if the country knew our young men and what they are about - the accountability, the passion, the humility, the selflessness - then nothing is really surprising"; and

WHEREAS, Coach Simmons also said, "If we are going to represent Arkansas, then we want to compete the right way. We want to battle with a warrior spirit, valiant toughness, grit and passion that would make somebody who does not know us proud of what is going on"; and

WHEREAS, with their 38-7 victory over the Orediggers, the Bisons certainly made Arkansas proud, securing the first-ever Division II football championship for an Arkansas program in front of the eighth-largest crowd in the game's fifty (50) year history,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the House of Representatives recognize and congratulate the Harding University Bisons football team for winning the NCAA Division II Football Championship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, a copy be provided to Head Coach Paul Simmons by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.