

By Representative Levine

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House Resolution

A resolution commemorating the inaugural season of NCAA Division I college football at Florida Atlantic University.

WHEREAS, Florida Atlantic University, a member of the State University System, was established in 1961 and opened its doors to students in 1964, and

WHEREAS, with an 850-acre campus in Boca Raton, and numerous other satellite campuses throughout South Florida, Florida Atlantic University has a total enrollment of 23,000 students, with more than 66,000 Florida Atlantic University alumni, and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 1999, a new phase of Florida Atlantic University's history began with groundbreaking ceremonies for the Tom Oxley Athletic Center on the Boca Raton campus, and

WHEREAS, construction of the 61,000-square-foot, \$8 million athletic center promises not only a tremendous leap forward for all athletics programs at Florida Atlantic University, but signifies the commencement of Florida Atlantic University's participation in NCAA Division I college football, beginning with the 2001 season, and

WHEREAS, funded through private donations, which included a \$4 million donation from the center's namesake, Tom Oxley, the athletic center, which is scheduled for completion by September 1, 2000, will not only be a state-of-the-art center for Florida Atlantic University's developing football program, but will also be home to Florida Atlantic University's other Division I athletic teams, and

1 WHEREAS, in addition to the construction of the Tom
2 Oxley Athletic Center, Florida Atlantic University's
3 whole-hearted commitment to a successful football program is
4 evidenced by securing one of the country's most renowned
5 college football coaches, Howard Schnellenberger, as Special
6 Assistant to the Director of Athletics for Football Operations
7 for the university, and

8 WHEREAS, Howard Schnellenberger is most widely known as
9 the former head coach for the University of Miami who in 1979
10 signed a 5-year contract with the university that contained a
11 stipulation which provided that, if the university did not win
12 an NCAA national championship within 5 years, the school would
13 eliminate its football program, and

14 WHEREAS, Coach Schnellenberger not only produced the
15 national championship in 1983, but also laid the solid
16 foundation on which the University of Miami football program
17 still stands, and

18 WHEREAS, besides his legendary career at the University
19 of Miami, Howard Schnellenberger was an offensive coach for
20 the National Football League's Miami Dolphins who, during the
21 1970's under Head Coach Don Shula, helped lead the Dolphins to
22 three straight Super Bowl appearances, including their victory
23 in Super Bowl VII, the culmination of their legendary 17-0
24 perfect season, and also directed the offense at the
25 University of Alabama for 5 years under Head Coach Paul "Bear"
26 Bryant, with a record of 39-4 and three national
27 championships, and

28 WHEREAS, the construction of the Tom Oxley Athletic
29 Center and the hiring of Howard Schnellenberger as Special
30 Assistant to the Director of Athletics for Football Operations
31 are auspicious beginnings for the football program at Florida

1 Atlantic University that evince a commitment to excellence and
2 a determination to be competitive in what has become the
3 leading state in the nation for achievement in college
4 football, NOW, THEREFORE,

5
6 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
7 Florida:

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9 That the House of Representatives of the State of
10 Florida hereby congratulates Florida Atlantic University on
11 its entry into NCAA Division I college football competition.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution
13 be presented to Florida Atlantic University President Anthony
14 J. Catanese, Director of Athletics Tom Cargill, Vice President
15 for Student Affairs Emanuel Newsome, Special Assistant to the
16 Director of Athletics for Football Operations Howard
17 Schnellenberger, and Florida Atlantic University alumnus and
18 benefactor Tom Oxley, as a tangible token of the sentiments
19 expressed herein.

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