

HR 9047

2009

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring and congratulating the Jacksonville
3 University Dolphins football team on winning their first
4 Pioneer Football League championship and participating in
5 the program's first postseason bowl game.

6
7 WHEREAS, Jacksonville University started its
8 intercollegiate football program in 1998 and in its first 10
9 years of competition the nonscholarship team only enjoyed one
10 winning season, and

11 WHEREAS, under the institutional leadership of university
12 President Dr. Kerry Romesburg and Athletics Director Alan
13 Verlander, former University of Florida quarterback Kerwin Bell
14 took over the reins as head coach of the Dolphin program in 2007
15 and suffered through a 3-8 season before leading the Dolphins to
16 their most successful season ever in 2008, finishing with a
17 regular season record of 9-3 overall and 7-1 in the Pioneer
18 Football League, and

19 WHEREAS, on the final day of the 2008 regular season,
20 Jacksonville University hosted the University of Dayton, the
21 conference's defending champion, and with an amazing second half
22 rally defeated the Flyers by a score of 19-14 before the largest
23 crowd in school history to win the Pioneer Football League
24 championship, and

25 WHEREAS, the Dolphins were led by some outstanding
26 individual performances in 2008, with four players earning First
27 Team All Conference honors, including Pioneer Football League
28 Offensive Freshman of the Year Josh McGregor, four players

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29 | earning places on the Second Team, seven players earning All-
 30 | Conference honorable mention, and Coach Kerwin Bell being named
 31 | Pioneer Football League Coach of the Year, and

32 | WHEREAS, the 2008 conference championship earned the
 33 | Dolphins their first postseason bowl game, a matchup with the
 34 | State University of New York at Albany, the champions of the
 35 | Northeast Conference, in the Gridiron Classic in Albany, New
 36 | York, on December 6, 2008, and

37 | WHEREAS, the team's outstanding season brought tremendous
 38 | excitement and pride to the Jacksonville University campus and
 39 | the entire city of Jacksonville and further exemplified the
 40 | dramatic improvement in all of the university's athletic
 41 | programs, from rowing and soccer to track and field and
 42 | volleyball, NOW, THEREFORE,

43 |
 44 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 45 | Florida:

46 |
 47 | That the Florida House of Representatives hereby honors and
 48 | congratulates the Jacksonville University Dolphins football team
 49 | for winning their first ever Pioneer Football League
 50 | championship and participating in the program's first postseason
 51 | bowl game, the Gridiron Classic, and extends its best wishes to
 52 | the Dolphins football team and to the entire Jacksonville
 53 | University community for continued athletic and academic success
 54 | in the years to come.