

House Resolution

A resolution commending the Florida A&M University Rattlers football team for winning the 2023 HBCU National Championship.

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2023, the Florida A&M University Rattlers football team clinched the 2023 Historically Black College and University (HBCU) National Championship with a 30-26 victory over the Howard University Bison in the Celebration Bowl, held at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia, and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Willie Simmons led the Rattlers to their best season since 1999, winning 10 regular season games, the Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship, and ultimately the HBCU National Championship in the Rattlers' first-ever appearance in the Celebration Bowl, and

WHEREAS, in 1978, the Rattlers became the first and only HBCU team to win the national championship in Division I-AA, now called the Football Championship Subdivision, and

WHEREAS, 45 years later, the Rattlers achieved another historic victory by beating Howard University in the Celebration Bowl, winning the HBCU National Championship in front of more than 41,000 fans, and over 1.5 million viewers watching from home, and

WHEREAS, the young men in orange and green have demonstrated sportsmanship, perseverance, and excellence, NOW,

HR 8013

2024

26 | THEREFORE,

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28 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
29 | Florida:

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31 | That the Florida A&M University Rattlers football team is
32 | recognized and congratulated for winning the 2023 HBCU National
33 | Championship as part of a remarkable 12-1 season.

34 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
35 | presented to Florida A&M University President Larry Robinson,
36 | Ph.D., Director of Athletics Tiffani-Dawn Sykes, Head Coach
37 | Willie Simmons, the Rattlers coaching staff, and the members of
38 | the Florida A&M University Rattlers football team as a tangible
39 | token of the sentiments of the Florida House of Representatives.