

By Senator Rodriguez

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the outstanding performance of Indiana University quarterback Fernando Mendoza during the 2025 football season and congratulating him on his election as the 91st recipient of the Heisman Memorial Trophy.

WHEREAS, Fernando Mendoza was born on October 1, 2003, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was raised in Miami, where he attended Christopher Columbus High School and played as a quarterback on the school's football team, and

WHEREAS, initially committed to Yale University, Fernando Mendoza ultimately enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley, where he played from 2022 to 2024, and

WHEREAS, in 2025, Fernando Mendoza transferred to Indiana University and became the starting quarterback for the Indiana Hoosiers football team, leading the program to a 16-0 record, a Big Ten championship, victories in the 2026 Rose Bowl and the 2026 Peach Bowl, and the program's first No. 1 seed and national championship victory in the 2026 College Football Playoff, and

WHEREAS, the Miami native finished the 2025 season with 3,535 passing yards and led the nation with 41 passing touchdowns, while also rushing for 276 yards and 7 additional touchdowns, and earned multiple major honors, including the Maxwell Award and the Davey O'Brien Award, and was named the Associated Press College Football Player of the Year, the Walter Camp Player of the Year, and the Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year and Quarterback of the Year, and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2025, Fernando Mendoza was awarded

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30 the 91st Heisman Memorial Trophy as the most outstanding player
31 in college football, achieving a historic victory by leading all
32 six Heisman regions in voting and becoming the first player in
33 Indiana University history to receive the award, and

34 WHEREAS, Fernando Mendoza is the first Cuban American and
35 the third Latino to win the Heisman Memorial Trophy, marking a
36 milestone for Cuban-American and Latino athletes in college
37 sports, and

38 WHEREAS, Fernando Mendoza's achievements have brought
39 national recognition to Indiana University and his hometown of
40 Miami and serve as an inspiration to young athletes,
41 particularly in the Cuban-American and Latino communities, NOW,
42 THEREFORE,

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44 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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46 That the Florida Senate recognizes the outstanding
47 performance of Indiana University quarterback Fernando Mendoza
48 during the 2025 football season and congratulates him on his
49 election as the 91st recipient of the Heisman Memorial Trophy.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
51 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Fernando Mendoza
52 as a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.