

1 HR447
2 119251-1
3 By Representative Gipson
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 02-MAR-10

8 CONGRATULATING ROMAN HARPER AS THE FIRST PRATTVILLE
9 HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUPER BOWL.

10
11 WHEREAS, we note with great appreciation that, on
12 February 7, 2010, Roman Harper of the New Orleans Saints
13 became the first former Prattville High School athlete to
14 participate in the Super Bowl; and

15 WHEREAS, a native of Prattville, Mr. Harper starred
16 in both basketball and football at Prattville High; he played
17 point guard on the basketball team and both quarterback and
18 free safety in football, but it was at defensive back where
19 his future lay; and

20 WHEREAS, after graduating from Prattville High
21 School, Mr. Harper proceeded to a great career as a member of
22 The University of Alabama Crimson Tide; a four-year
23 contributor and three-year starter, he was selected to the
24 All-Southeastern Conference team as both a junior and senior
25 and often served as a team spokesman at media events; as a
26 senior in 2005, Mr. Harper was a member of one of the most
27 dominating defenses in the history of The University and of

1 the SEC; over the course of his great career, he recorded 302
2 total tackles, five interceptions, 3.5 sacks, four fumble
3 recoveries, and five forced fumbles, including the legendary
4 "Rocky Stop," which became the game-winning play in The
5 University's victory over the Tennessee Volunteers; he holds a
6 B.S. degree in management from The University and remains an
7 avid Crimson Tide fan; Mr. Harper is well-known in his
8 community for wearing his love for The University on his
9 sleeve; and

10 WHEREAS, drafted in the second round of the NFL
11 draft by the New Orleans Saints, Mr. Harper immediately earned
12 a starting job as a strong safety with the team; as a rookie
13 in 2006, he started five games before suffering a
14 season-ending injury; he recovered and returned to starting in
15 2007; over the course of his four-year career, Mr. Harper has
16 started every game for which he has been active and, in 2007,
17 was awarded the Ed Block Courage Award by his teammates; in
18 those four years, he has recorded 319 tackles, 6.5 sacks,
19 three interceptions, 21 pass defenses, and six forced fumbles;
20 he is particularly recognized for his ability to rush the
21 passer, consistently ranking among the league leaders for
22 sacks by a defensive back; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Harper led the Saints with eight
24 tackles in their 31-17 victory over the heavily favored
25 Indianapolis Colts; and

26 WHEREAS, born December 2, 1982, the third of four
27 children to Ronald T. and Princess L. Harper, he is a member

1 of an exceptionally close-knit family; he and his brother,
2 Ronnie, both chose to wear their father's jersey number - 41 -
3 while playing football in college; Mr. Harper currently wears
4 that same number with the Saints; he, his family, the people
5 of Prattville, and the people of the State of Alabama are
6 justly proud of our native son's continued pursuit of
7 excellence on the field and in the community; now therefore,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
9 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we heartily congratulate
10 Roman Harper as the first former Prattville High School
11 athlete to participate in the Super Bowl and that, by copy of
12 this resolution, we hereby extend our heartfelt good wishes
13 for all his future endeavors.