

HJR23 INTRODUCED



1 HJR23
2 RRXTNYM-1
3 By Representative Pringle
4 RFD: RULES
5 First Read: 07-Feb-24



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4 HJR___ COMMENDING COACH NICK SABAN FOR HIS PROFESSIONAL
5 ACHIEVEMENTS AND EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
6 RETIREMENT.

7
8 WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure,
9 highest honors, commendations, and congratulations are
10 conveyed to Coach Nicholas Lou Saban, Jr. for his retirement
11 after a five-decade career that included head coaching
12 positions at the University of Toledo, Michigan State
13 University, Louisiana State University (LSU), the Miami
14 Dolphins, and, most notably, The University of Alabama (UA),
15 where Coach Saban achieved his most monumental coaching
16 accolades and changed the landscape of college football
17 forever; and

18 WHEREAS, under Coach Saban, Alabama Football made an
19 appearance at No. 1 in the AP Poll in an unprecedented 15
20 consecutive seasons and held the No. 1 rank for a record
21 total of 109 weeks over 17 seasons; since Coach Saban took
22 over, Alabama Football has had 17 more victories than any
23 other NCAA FBS program; during his legacy with the Crimson
24 Tide, Coach Saban has become one of only 11 college football
25 coaches to win over 200 games at one major-college football
26 program; he had 57 consecutive non-conference regular season
27 wins at UA, the longest streak in the nation during the
28 Southeastern Conference (SEC) era; Coach Saban led the Tide



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29 to 88 wins in 98 games as the No. 1 team in the AP Poll,
30 both of which are records; and he led the Tide to a record
31 16 consecutive 10-win seasons; and

32 WHEREAS, Coach Saban signed 10 No. 1 recruiting
33 classes during his tenure with the Crimson Tide; he coached
34 the University's four Heisman Trophy winners, making him the
35 only coach in SEC history to produce multiple Heisman Trophy
36 winners; he produced a record 49 NFL first-round picks over
37 his career, 44 of which he produced at UA; Coach Saban is
38 one of four coaches in the common draft era to have more
39 than 160 players selected in the NFL Draft; under Coach
40 Saban, the Tide has produced 60 national award winning
41 players; Coach Saban's players at UA have won 66 All-America
42 honors; eight players have been named two-time
43 All-Americans, including the first two-time unanimous
44 All-American in Alabama history, Will Anderson, Jr.; and

45 WHEREAS, no SEC team holds a winning record against
46 Coach Saban; he and his predecessor, Paul "Bear" Bryant, are
47 the only two coaches to win SEC Championships at two
48 different schools; Coach Saban is the only coach to win 11
49 SEC Championships outright, nine of which were won at UA; he
50 is the second winningest head coach in number of wins with a
51 single school in SEC history with 206 wins; and he is the
52 second winningest head coach in SEC history in number of
53 overall wins with 254 and SEC regular-season wins with 148;
54 and

55 WHEREAS, Coach Saban is regarded by many as the
56 greatest college football coach of all time; he is the only



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57 coach to boast nine victories against the No. 1 team in the
58 AP Poll, 30 wins against teams ranked in the top five of the
59 AP Poll, and 104 wins against ranked opponents; he holds the
60 longest winning streak against unranked opponents in NCAA
61 FBS history at 100 wins; he is the only coach to win a
62 national championship at two different Division-I FBS
63 schools; he is the only college football head coach to win
64 seven national championships, six of which were won at UA;
65 of the 10 seasons that the College Football Playoff (CFP)
66 has existed, Coach Saban's Crimson Tide has qualified a
67 record eight times; he is the only head coach to play in 14
68 CFP games, win 9 CFP games, and win 3 CFP national
69 championships; during his 28 seasons as a collegiate head
70 coach, Saban never led a college football team that ended
71 the season with a losing record; he leads all active college
72 football coaches in wins with 297, win percentage at 80.6
73 percent, and bowl wins with 19; and Coach Saban's renowned
74 297 wins designate him as the sixth winningest head coach in
75 FBS history; and

76 WHEREAS, Nick Saban is a member of the Alabama Sports
77 Hall of Fame, the Kent State Varsity K Hall of Fame, and the
78 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame; he has won a plethora of
79 prestigious coaching awards including, among others, the
80 Associated Press National Coach of the Year Award in 2003
81 and 2008; the Paul "Bear" Bryant Award in 2003 and 2020; the
82 FWAA/Eddie Robinson Award in 2003 and 2008; the Walter Camp
83 Coach of the Year Award in 2008 and 2018; the Bobby Bowden
84 National Collegiate Coach of the Year Award in 2009, 2011,



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and 2012; the George Munger Award in 2016; the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Award in 2014; the Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year Award in 2008; the Home Depot Coach of the Year Award in 2008; the Sporting News Coach of the Year Award in 2008; and the SEC Coach of the Year Award in 2003, 2008, 2009, 2016, and 2020; and

WHEREAS, a Fairmont, West Virginia native, Coach Saban graduated from Kent State University in 1973, where he played safety on the Golden Flashes football team; Coach Saban also began his coaching career at his alma mater as a graduate assistant in 1973; in 1975, Coach Saban earned his master's degree from Kent State University; and

WHEREAS, Coach Saban has achieved much more than success on the football field as an exemplary coach, mentor, and community leader; during his time as the head coach of the Crimson Tide, Coach Saban's players have earned a total of 656 degrees, including 103 master's degrees; and for his unforgettable contributions to the community, his family has been honored by having a street named "Nick's Kids Avenue" after the Nick's Kids Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Coach Saban, along with his wife, Terry Saban, have made incredibly generous donations to The University of Alabama Scholarship Fund; he has donated over \$1 million dollars to The University of Alabama's First-Generation Scholarship Program; he has also donated \$1 million dollars to UA's Athletics Foundation, The Crimson Standard; with the support of and donations from Coach Saban, the St. Francis Catholic Church in Tuscaloosa built



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the Saban Catholic Student Center; Coach Saban played a vital role in tornado relief following the devastating tornado on April 27, 2011; Coach Saban purchased and served meals to those in need at shelters immediately following the tragedy that struck Tuscaloosa and the surrounding areas; he also joined with Habitat for Humanity to build 21 homes; and while at LSU, Coach Saban raised over \$100,000 per year for the Children's Miracle Network on top of supporting many other charitable and civic projects in Louisiana and working as a fundraiser for LSU's Student-Athlete Academic Center; and

WHEREAS, named in honor of Nick Saban, Sr., the Nick's Kids Foundation has helped bolster and improve the lives and futures of countless youth in Alabama through its contributions of over \$12 million to students, teachers, families, and children's causes at over 150 charities; these contributions include, but are in no way limited to: renovation of the STTEP Building of Brewer Porch Children's Center; the Tuscaloosa Riverwalk Playground; career tech classrooms at the Tuscaloosa County Juvenile Detention Center; the Alberta School of Performing Arts playground; and the Tuscaloosa Public Library; and

WHEREAS, in creating a lasting legacy in Tuscaloosa, Coach Saban has supported and partnered with the City of Tuscaloosa to develop the Saban Center as the combined home of Ignite, a new STEM Discovery Center, the State of Alabama STEM Hub, and the Tuscaloosa Children's Theatre; and the Saban Center also brought to Tuscaloosa the All-Inclusive



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141 Playground; and

142 WHEREAS, Coach Saban remains beloved and highly
143 esteemed by players, students, fans, The University of
144 Alabama and other university communities that he called
145 home, and by the people of our great State of Alabama; now
146 therefore,

147 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
148 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body regards, reveres,
149 and honors Nick Saban in the highest manner for his numerous
150 professional accolades and model citizenship; and, along
151 with best wishes for continued success during his
152 retirement, we hereby dedicate this resolution to him as an
153 exemplary leader with the utmost respect, gratitude, and
154 admiration for all that he has done and accomplished for the
155 State of Alabama, The University of Alabama, and the
156 countless lives that he has positively impacted through his
157 charitable endeavors.

158 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
159 resolution be presented to Coach Nick Saban and The
160 University of Alabama as a demonstration of our unrivaled
161 gratitude, admiration, and respect.