

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Fiscal Session, 2024  
4  
5 By: Senator J. Dismang  
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SR 25

7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 TO RECOGNIZE THE HARDING UNIVERSITY BISONS FOOTBALL  
9 TEAM AS THE 2023 NCAA DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONS.  
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11 **Subtitle**

12 TO RECOGNIZE THE HARDING UNIVERSITY  
13 BISONS FOOTBALL TEAM AS THE 2023 NCAA  
14 DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONS.  
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17 WHEREAS, the Harding University Bisons finished off an undefeated  
18 season by beating the Colorado School of Mines Orediggers to claim the NCAA  
19 Division II Football Championship in front of a crowd of more than twelve  
20 thousand (12,000) attendees; and  
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22 WHEREAS, Harding University became the first team in the history of  
23 college football to rush for more than six thousand yards (6,000 yds.) in a  
24 season, with the offense rushing for five hundred two yards (502 yds.) in the  
25 championship game; and  
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27 WHEREAS, the Bisons finished as the top rushing offense nationally,  
28 with six thousand one hundred sixty yards (6,160 yds.) and seventy-nine (79)  
29 rushing touchdowns, averaging four hundred eleven yards (411 yds.) rushing  
30 per contest; and  
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32 WHEREAS, the Bison defense was equally strong, finishing second  
33 nationally in scoring defense by allowing only ten point nine (10.9) points  
34 per game and finishing fifth in total defense by surrendering an average of  
35 only two hundred forty-seven yards (247 yds.) per contest; and  
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1           WHEREAS, the Bison special teams was also impressive, with the kickers  
2 averaging forty-one yards (41 yds.) per punt and connecting on eighty percent  
3 (80%) of field goal attempts; and  
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5           WHEREAS, Head Coach Paul Simmons stated "I think if the country knew  
6 our young men and what they are about - the accountability, the passion, the  
7 humility, the selflessness - then nothing is really surprising"; and  
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9           WHEREAS, Coach Simmons also said, "If we are going to represent  
10 Arkansas, then we want to compete the right way. We want to battle with a  
11 warrior spirit, valiant toughness, grit and passion that would make somebody  
12 who does not know us proud of what is going on"; and  
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14           WHEREAS, with their 38-7 victory over the Orediggers, the Bisons  
15 certainly made Arkansas proud, securing the first-ever Division II football  
16 championship for an Arkansas program in front of the eighth-largest crowd in  
17 the game's fifty (50) year history,  
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19 NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
21 STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23           THAT the Senate recognize and congratulate the Harding University  
24 Bisons football team for winning the NCAA Division II Football Championship.  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, a copy be  
27 provided to Head Coach Paul Simmons by the Secretary of the Senate.  
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