

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 156

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend Head Coach Doug Williams upon the twenty-fifth anniversary of his selection as the first black quarterback to be named Most Valuable Player of a Super Bowl game and to recognize his many contributions to the Grambling State University football program.

WHEREAS, Doug Williams graduated from Grambling State University in 1978 and first became the head coach of the football team in 1997; and

WHEREAS, his accomplishments and contributions in the realm of football began in the early 1970s, as a star quarterback for Cheneyville High School in his native town of Zachary, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was named Black College Player of the Year twice and was once fourth in the Heisman Trophy voting during his undergraduate career at Grambling State; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Mr. Williams led the nation in touchdown passes with thirty-eight and in passing yards with 3,286; and

WHEREAS, Doug Williams' career at Grambling was marked by many firsts: he was the first player from a predominantly black school to be chosen as a First Team All-American, the first player from a predominantly black school ever to be selected as a consensus All-American quarterback, and the first quarterback from a predominantly black school ever to be selected in the first round of the National Football League draft, going to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as the seventeenth selection overall; and

WHEREAS, in Coach Williams' professional football career, he played for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Washington Redskins of the National Football League and for the Oklahoma Outlaws of the United States Football League; and

WHEREAS, one of the most notable achievements of Coach Williams' career was becoming the first black quarterback to start in and win a Super Bowl; in Super Bowl XXII, he led his Washington Redskins to a 42-10 victory over the Denver Broncos; and

WHEREAS, Coach Williams became the first black quarterback to ever be named the Most Valuable Player of a Super Bowl game; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Coach Williams returned to Grambling as head football coach, succeeding the legendary Eddie Robinson; his team went 10-2 in 2000 and 11-1 in 2001 and won the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Championship both years; and

WHEREAS, Coach Williams rejoined the Buccaneers as a personnel executive, and in 2009, he was promoted to the director of professional scouting; on June 21, 2010, it was announced that he would become General Manager of the Norfolk expansion franchise in the United Football League; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Coach Williams returned for his second stint as the head football coach at Grambling, and under his leadership, the Tigers won the State Farm Bayou Classic, the SWAC Western Division, and the SWAC Championship for the 2011 season; and

WHEREAS, though Coach Williams is perhaps best known for his accomplishments on the field, his contributions off the field also are notable, including his work in providing scholarships for high school students through the Doug Williams Foundation, service on the Louisiana governor's council to combat drug and alcohol abuse, and his active work with youth and charitable groups; and

WHEREAS, his charitable work has earned him numerous awards, including being named Washingtonian of the Year and receiving the Generous Hearts Award and the Boys Club Congressional Award; and

WHEREAS, Doug Williams, a champion, a natural leader, a trailblazer, and the head football coach of his beloved Grambling State Tigers, has defied the odds and has fulfilled not only his dreams but those of many others; and

WHEREAS, Coach Williams is being honored by the Grambling University National Alumni Association (GUNNA) Ruston Chapter at its annual gala on June 8, 2013.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Doug Williams for his many contributions

to the Grambling State University football program, to his fellow citizens, and to the state of Louisiana, does hereby recognize and record for posterity the special place he has in the annals of Louisiana history, and does hereby commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of his selection as the first black quarterback to be named Most Valuable Player of a Super Bowl game.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Doug Williams.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES