

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 785

By Odom

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jordan Matthews of the Vanderbilt Commodores, the Southeastern Conference's All-Time Leading Receiver.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful student athletes who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such athlete is Jordan Matthews of Vanderbilt University, who finished his storied collegiate football career as the Southeastern Conference's All-Time Leading Receiver; and

WHEREAS, the son of Roderick and Brenda Matthews, Jordan Armand Matthews is a native of Madison, Alabama, and attended Madison Academy where he was a three-year starter at wide receiver for the Mustangs, earning first team 3A All-State and All Elite 11 honors his senior season; and

WHEREAS, accepting a scholarship to play football for Vanderbilt University in the Southeastern Conference (SEC), Jordan Matthews saw action in every game his freshman season for the Commodores as he registered a touchdown in each of his last four games and earned his first start in the final game of the season against Wake Forest; and

WHEREAS, Jordan Matthews' sophomore season culminated in a trip for Vandy to the AutoZone Liberty Bowl; he led the team with 41 catches for 783 yards to rank among SEC leaders with a 19.1-yard receiving average, as he enjoyed 100-yard games against Arkansas, Florida, and Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, as a junior, Jordan Matthews had arguably the greatest season ever by a Vanderbilt wide receiver; he started all thirteen games and finished the year as the Commodores' all-time single-season leader with 1,323 yards; and

WHEREAS, his 94 catches that same season, with seven 100-yard games and a league-leading 109.6 yards-per-game average, earned him unanimous First Team All-SEC and Third Team All-American honors as he helped the Commodores win the American Mortgage Music City Bowl with a victory over North Carolina State; and

WHEREAS, capping off his college career with one of the most productive seasons in Southeastern Conference and Vanderbilt history, Jordan Matthews set the mark as the most prolific receiver in SEC history with 262 career receptions and 3,759 receiving yards, and was named First Team All-American and All-SEC First Team; and

WHEREAS, holding virtually every Vanderbilt career and single-season receiving record, Jordan Matthews established a new SEC record during his final season with 112 catches while his 1,477 yards receiving were third highest in SEC history; and

WHEREAS, during his senior season, he set a new SEC record by surpassing 100 receiving yards in nine games, had at least five receptions in every game, and amassed 74 catches and 904 yards against SEC competition; and

WHEREAS, Vanderbilt football fans will long remember one of the most incredible catches in Commodore history as Jordan Matthews hauled in a deep pass in heavy coverage on 4<sup>th</sup> and 12 to keep an eventual game-winning drive alive against Wake Forest in the final game of the regular season; and

WHEREAS, with thousands of Vandy fans cheering the team on, Jordan Matthews put the capstone on his stellar career with two tremendous touchdown catches in the Commodores' 41-24 victory over Houston in the BBVA Compass Bowl; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Jordan Matthews was named a Semifinalist for the Biletnikoff Award, SEC Offensive Player of the Week (November 16, 2013),

and to the Watch List for both the Maxwell Award and the College Football Performance Awards Wide Receiver Trophy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Matthews's determination, work ethic, and talent have not only made possible a memorable and successful football career, but also surely bode well for his success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Jordan Matthews of the Vanderbilt Commodores and specially recognize his extraordinary achievements on the football gridiron; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Jordan Matthews of Vanderbilt University upon becoming the Southeastern Conference's All-Time Leading Receiver and wish him every success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.