

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 601

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate James “Boots”
Donnelly upon his induction into the College
Football Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, former Middle Tennessee State University head football coach James “Boots” Donnelly earned the esteemed honor of induction into the 2013 Divisional College Football Hall of Fame Class, becoming the first hall of famer in the university’s history; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville native has long been a dedicated member of the MTSU community, beginning with his career as a defensive back from 1962-1964; he led the Blue Raiders to a conference championship and a Grantland Rice Bowl win in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Coach Donnelly later served as athletic director at MTSU for three years, playing an important role in moving Middle Tennessee to the FBS level; and

WHEREAS, Coach Donnelly started his head coaching career at Austin Peay, where he led the program to its first Ohio Valley Conference title in his first season and coached the team to a 14-7 record in his two seasons there; and

WHEREAS, in his two decades coaching at MTSU, Coach Donnelly led the Raiders to nine top 20 regular season finishes and seven NCAA I-AA playoff appearances, as well as guiding the team to a 31-game home winning streak from 1987-1993; and

WHEREAS, he has been recognized in the past by his university and the state for his achievements and dedication to the sport, and he is a member of both the Blue Raiders and the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fames; and

WHEREAS, Coach Donnelly has also been recognized by the Ohio Valley Conference, in which he has shared or won five conference titles, has been named Coach of the Year four

times, and is renowned as the only coach in OVC history to win the conference title at two different schools; and

WHEREAS, Coach Donnelly was named the 1989 NFF Middle Tennessee Chapter's Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football Award recipient and is now a member of the organization's board of directors, on which he is instrumental in fundraising for scholarships; and

WHEREAS, he currently serves as the CEO of the Backfield in Motion organization, which combines academics and athletics to inspire inner city boys to reach their maximum potential; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and congratulate James "Boots" Donnelly for his outstanding service to the State of Tennessee and his rightful induction into the hallowed College Football Hall of Fame.

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