



2024 South Dakota Legislature

House Commemoration 8009

Introduced by: **Representatives** Nelson, Aylward, Bahmuller, Duba, Perry, Wangsness, Weisgram, and Wittman and **Senator** Kolbeck (Steve)

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Celebrating the South Dakota State University**
 2 **Jackrabbit football team winning a second consecutive NCAA Division I**
 3 **Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) National Championship.**

4 WHEREAS, the first season of football at South Dakota State University was 1889, and in
 5 the past one hundred and twenty-five seasons of football, they compiled a 659-475-38 overall
 6 record, won nineteen conference titles, and made fourteen NCAA postseason appearances;
 7 and

8 WHEREAS, during the 2023-2024 season, the Jackrabbits made their twelfth-consecutive
 9 appearance in the FCS playoffs, advanced to at least the semi-final round for the sixth time
 10 in the last seven seasons, and extended their program-record winning streak to twenty-nine
 11 games, which is the third-longest winning streak in the history of the FCS; and

12 WHEREAS, during the 2023-2024 season, the Jackrabbits had a fifteen-game winning
 13 streak and their second-consecutive outright Missouri Valley Football Conference
 14 championship after going undefeated with a record of 8-0 in league play, were ranked number
 15 one in the nation in the FCS for the entire season, and outscored the opposition by a combined
 16 146-15 in four FCS playoff games, only allowing one touchdown; and

17 WHEREAS, eleven of the Jackrabbits' fifteen victories were against ranked opponents; and

18 WHEREAS, the Jackrabbits played before sellout crowds in four of their six regular season
 19 home games and in each of the three postseason games the Jackrabbits hosted, setting a
 20 new home playoff attendance record; and

21 WHEREAS, the Jackrabbits led the FCS in numerous statistical categories, including scoring
 22 defense with 9.3 points per game, total defense with 257.2 yards per game, and team passing
 23 efficiency with 174.26 yards per game; and

1 WHEREAS, ten players were named to All-American teams, twenty players were honored
2 on the All-Missouri Valley Football Conference squad, and the team's combined GPA was
3 3.174; and

4 WHEREAS, quarterback Mark Gronowski received the Walter Payton Award as the top
5 offensive player in the FCS and head coach Jimmy Rogers was honored with the Eddie
6 Robinson Award as the top coach in the FCS; and

7 WHEREAS, on January 7, 2024, the defending champion South Dakota State University
8 Jackrabbit Football Team beat the Montana Grizzlies 23-3 in the national title game, before a
9 crowd of nineteen thousand five hundred and twelve fans at Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas:

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Ninth Legislature of the State
11 of South Dakota, that Coach Jimmy Rogers and the South Dakota State University Jackrabbit
12 football team displayed exemplary teamwork, leadership, and commitment in winning a
13 second-consecutive NCAA Division I FCS National Championship. GO BIG! GO BLUE! GO
14 JACKS!