

# HJR23 INTRODUCED



1 HJR23  
2 RRXTNYM-1  
3 By Representative Pringle  
4 RFD: RULES  
5 First Read: 07-Feb-24



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HJR\_\_\_ COMMENDING COACH NICK SABAN FOR HIS PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, highest honors, commendations, and congratulations are conveyed to Coach Nicholas Lou Saban, Jr. for his retirement after a five-decade career that included head coaching positions at the University of Toledo, Michigan State University, Louisiana State University (LSU), the Miami Dolphins, and, most notably, The University of Alabama (UA), where Coach Saban achieved his most monumental coaching accolades and changed the landscape of college football forever; and

WHEREAS, under Coach Saban, Alabama Football made an appearance at No. 1 in the AP Poll in an unprecedented 15 consecutive seasons and held the No. 1 rank for a record total of 109 weeks over 17 seasons; since Coach Saban took over, Alabama Football has had 17 more victories than any other NCAA FBS program; during his legacy with the Crimson Tide, Coach Saban has become one of only 11 college football coaches to win over 200 games at one major-college football program; he had 57 consecutive non-conference regular season wins at UA, the longest streak in the nation during the Southeastern Conference (SEC) era; Coach Saban led the Tide



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29 to 88 wins in 98 games as the No. 1 team in the AP Poll,  
30 both of which are records; and he led the Tide to a record  
31 16 consecutive 10-win seasons; and

32 WHEREAS, Coach Saban signed 10 No. 1 recruiting  
33 classes during his tenure with the Crimson Tide; he coached  
34 the University's four Heisman Trophy winners, making him the  
35 only coach in SEC history to produce multiple Heisman Trophy  
36 winners; he produced a record 49 NFL first-round picks over  
37 his career, 44 of which he produced at UA; Coach Saban is  
38 one of four coaches in the common draft era to have more  
39 than 160 players selected in the NFL Draft; under Coach  
40 Saban, the Tide has produced 60 national award winning  
41 players; Coach Saban's players at UA have won 66 All-America  
42 honors; eight players have been named two-time  
43 All-Americans, including the first two-time unanimous  
44 All-American in Alabama history, Will Anderson, Jr.; and

45 WHEREAS, no SEC team holds a winning record against  
46 Coach Saban; he and his predecessor, Paul "Bear" Bryant, are  
47 the only two coaches to win SEC Championships at two  
48 different schools; Coach Saban is the only coach to win 11  
49 SEC Championships outright, nine of which were won at UA; he  
50 is the second winningest head coach in number of wins with a  
51 single school in SEC history with 206 wins; and he is the  
52 second winningest head coach in SEC history in number of  
53 overall wins with 254 and SEC regular-season wins with 148;  
54 and

55 WHEREAS, Coach Saban is regarded by many as the  
56 greatest college football coach of all time; he is the only



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57 coach to boast nine victories against the No. 1 team in the  
58 AP Poll, 30 wins against teams ranked in the top five of the  
59 AP Poll, and 104 wins against ranked opponents; he holds the  
60 longest winning streak against unranked opponents in NCAA  
61 FBS history at 100 wins; he is the only coach to win a  
62 national championship at two different Division-I FBS  
63 schools; he is the only college football head coach to win  
64 seven national championships, six of which were won at UA;  
65 of the 10 seasons that the College Football Playoff (CFP)  
66 has existed, Coach Saban's Crimson Tide has qualified a  
67 record eight times; he is the only head coach to play in 14  
68 CFP games, win 9 CFP games, and win 3 CFP national  
69 championships; during his 28 seasons as a collegiate head  
70 coach, Saban never led a college football team that ended  
71 the season with a losing record; he leads all active college  
72 football coaches in wins with 297, win percentage at 80.6  
73 percent, and bowl wins with 19; and Coach Saban's renowned  
74 297 wins designate him as the sixth winningest head coach in  
75 FBS history; and

76 WHEREAS, Nick Saban is a member of the Alabama Sports  
77 Hall of Fame, the Kent State Varsity K Hall of Fame, and the  
78 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame; he has won a plethora of  
79 prestigious coaching awards including, among others, the  
80 Associated Press National Coach of the Year Award in 2003  
81 and 2008; the Paul "Bear" Bryant Award in 2003 and 2020; the  
82 FWAA/Eddie Robinson Award in 2003 and 2008; the Walter Camp  
83 Coach of the Year Award in 2008 and 2018; the Bobby Bowden  
84 National Collegiate Coach of the Year Award in 2009, 2011,



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85 and 2012; the George Munger Award in 2016; the Bobby Dodd  
86 Coach of the Year Award in 2014; the Liberty Mutual Coach of  
87 the Year Award in 2008; the Home Depot Coach of the Year  
88 Award in 2008; the Sporting News Coach of the Year Award in  
89 2008; and the SEC Coach of the Year Award in 2003, 2008,  
90 2009, 2016, and 2020; and

91 WHEREAS, a Fairmont, West Virginia native, Coach  
92 Saban graduated from Kent State University in 1973, where he  
93 played safety on the Golden Flashes football team; Coach  
94 Saban also began his coaching career at his alma mater as a  
95 graduate assistant in 1973; in 1975, Coach Saban earned his  
96 master's degree from Kent State University; and

97 WHEREAS, Coach Saban has achieved much more than  
98 success on the football field as an exemplary coach, mentor,  
99 and community leader; during his time as the head coach of  
100 the Crimson Tide, Coach Saban's players have earned a total  
101 of 656 degrees, including 103 master's degrees; and for his  
102 unforgettable contributions to the community, his family has  
103 been honored by having a street named "Nick's Kids Avenue"  
104 after the Nick's Kids Foundation; and

105 WHEREAS, Coach Saban, along with his wife, Terry  
106 Saban, have made incredibly generous donations to The  
107 University of Alabama Scholarship Fund; he has donated over  
108 \$1 million dollars to The University of Alabama's  
109 First-Generation Scholarship Program; he has also donated \$1  
110 million dollars to UA's Athletics Foundation, The Crimson  
111 Standard; with the support of and donations from Coach  
112 Saban, the St. Francis Catholic Church in Tuscaloosa built



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113 the Saban Catholic Student Center; Coach Saban played a  
114 vital role in tornado relief following the devastating  
115 tornado on April 27, 2011; Coach Saban purchased and served  
116 meals to those in need at shelters immediately following the  
117 tragedy that struck Tuscaloosa and the surrounding areas; he  
118 also joined with Habitat for Humanity to build 21 homes; and  
119 while at LSU, Coach Saban raised over \$100,000 per year for  
120 the Children's Miracle Network on top of supporting many  
121 other charitable and civic projects in Louisiana and working  
122 as a fundraiser for LSU's Student-Athlete Academic Center;  
123 and

124 WHEREAS, named in honor of Nick Saban, Sr., the  
125 Nick's Kids Foundation has helped bolster and improve the  
126 lives and futures of countless youth in Alabama through its  
127 contributions of over \$12 million to students, teachers,  
128 families, and children's causes at over 150 charities; these  
129 contributions include, but are in no way limited to:  
130 renovation of the STTEP Building of Brewer Porch Children's  
131 Center; the Tuscaloosa Riverwalk Playground; career tech  
132 classrooms at the Tuscaloosa County Juvenile Detention  
133 Center; the Alberta School of Performing Arts playground;  
134 and the Tuscaloosa Public Library; and

135 WHEREAS, in creating a lasting legacy in Tuscaloosa,  
136 Coach Saban has supported and partnered with the City of  
137 Tuscaloosa to develop the Saban Center as the combined home  
138 of Ignite, a new STEM Discovery Center, the State of Alabama  
139 STEM Hub, and the Tuscaloosa Children's Theatre; and the  
140 Saban Center also brought to Tuscaloosa the All-Inclusive



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141 Playground; and

142 WHEREAS, Coach Saban remains beloved and highly  
143 esteemed by players, students, fans, The University of  
144 Alabama and other university communities that he called  
145 home, and by the people of our great State of Alabama; now  
146 therefore,

147 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
148 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body regards, reveres,  
149 and honors Nick Saban in the highest manner for his numerous  
150 professional accolades and model citizenship; and, along  
151 with best wishes for continued success during his  
152 retirement, we hereby dedicate this resolution to him as an  
153 exemplary leader with the utmost respect, gratitude, and  
154 admiration for all that he has done and accomplished for the  
155 State of Alabama, The University of Alabama, and the  
156 countless lives that he has positively impacted through his  
157 charitable endeavors.

158 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this  
159 resolution be presented to Coach Nick Saban and The  
160 University of Alabama as a demonstration of our unrivaled  
161 gratitude, admiration, and respect.