

A RESOLUTION honoring the Western Kentucky University football team upon its victory in the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl.

WHEREAS, the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers made history in 2014, winning eight games and earning a berth in the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl in Paradise Islands, Bahamas, on December 24, 2014; and

WHEREAS, in front of 13,667 fans at Thomas Robinson Stadium, the Hilltoppers beat the Central Michigan Chippewas in a college football classic. The win was the first FBS bowl win for Western Kentucky University and the first postseason win for the program since 2003; and

WHEREAS, led by quarterback Brandon Doughty's 486 yards of passing and five touchdowns, Anthony Wales's 95 yards of rushing with a touchdown, and Willie McNeal's 155 yards of receiving, the Hilltoppers offense amassed an incredible 647 total yards, while Cam Thomas paced the defense with an interception; and

WHEREAS, the Hilltoppers put up an amazing first half, jumping out to a 35-point lead behind Doughty's incredible play. The Chippewas erased the lead and found themselves on their own 25 yard line with one second remaining in the game and trailing 49-42. Central Michigan quarterback Cooper Rush completed a pass to receiver Jesse Kroll, and a series of laterals found the Chippewas in the end zone. Down by a single point, they attempted a two-point conversion for the win, but Western Kentucky's Wonderful Terry broke up the play and sealed the Hilltoppers' historic feat; and

WHEREAS, this honorable body hereby congratulates the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers, Head Coach Jeff Brohm and his staff, and all the legion of WKU fans in Bowling Green and throughout this Commonwealth for their unprecedented 2014 season and for their exciting win at the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl, and grants the program best wishes as it continues its impressive rise as a key player not only in this Commonwealth, but in the nation;

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔Section 1. The Senate honors the Western Kentucky University football team upon its victory in the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl and acknowledges the hard work and dedication of all the Hilltoppers players, Coach Jeff Brohm and his staff, and all the support staff who help to make the program a success on and off the playing field.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the Western Kentucky University football team.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Mike Wilson for delivery.