

House Resolution 1559

By: Representatives Ehrhart of the 36th, Reeves of the 34th, Evans of the 42nd, Carson of the 46th, Maxwell of the 17th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the students, coaches, and staff involved with the inaugural
2 football season at Kennesaw State University; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on February 14, 2013, University President Dr. Dan Papp made the
4 long-awaited announcement that football would be coming to Kennesaw State University
5 after a process that began in 2009 when an exploratory committee, chaired by legendary
6 former Georgia head football coach Vince Dooley, was formed to study the feasibility of
7 adding football at the institution; and

8 WHEREAS, the team had its inaugural national signing day on February 5, 2014, signing
9 Chandler Burks, South Paulding High School quarterback, as the program's first verbal
10 commitment and the Owl's first signee; and

11 WHEREAS, the Home of the Owls, the Fifth Third Bank Stadium signature athletics
12 landmark on the Kennesaw State University campus, is a world-class, 8,300 seat facility that
13 was completed in the spring of 2010 and has garnered national recognition as one of the
14 premier multi-use outdoor athletics facilities in the country, playing host to the inaugural
15 season of the Owls; and

16 WHEREAS, since his arrival in May of 2011, Vaughn Williams has initiated a
17 transformation of the Kennesaw State University Department of Athletics rarely seen in
18 intercollegiate athletics and a signature moment during his tenure came on February 13,
19 2013, when the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents approved the university's
20 request to add football and additional Title IX sports; and

21 WHEREAS, Brian Bohannon made his head coaching debut on September 3 after being
22 hired as head coach on March 22, 2013, having spent the previous five seasons as
23 quarterbacks/B-backs coach at Georgia Tech; and

24 WHEREAS, Coaches Christ Bland, Shane Bowen, Grant Chesnut, Stewart Cook, Mike
25 Daniels, Kevin Downing, Tim Glanton, Liam Klein, Brian Newberry, and Cody Worley
26 made certain that the inaugural football team was ready for play action; and

27 WHEREAS, Kennesaw State plays as an associate member in the Big South Conference and
28 posted a 6-5 record in its inaugural season, including a 5-1 mark at home; and

29 WHEREAS, Ryan Godhigh from Acworth, a public relations major and running back;
30 Prentice Stone from Marietta, an education major and wide receiver; Brett Gillespie from
31 Kennesaw, a sociology major and offensive lineman center; and Mason Harris from Fort
32 Oglethorpe, a hotel, restaurant, tourism major and defensive end, will be missed by the team
33 as they graduate from Kennesaw State University; and

34 WHEREAS, Kennesaw State student athletes excel on and off the field, as evidenced in 2015
35 when Prentice Stone was named to the all-academic team and in 2012 when Mason Harris
36 was a member of the SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
38 the members of this body recognize and commend the students, coaches, and staff of the
39 Kennesaw State University Owls football team for a job well done on its inaugural football
40 season and extend best wishes for continued success.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
42 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
43 Kennesaw State University football team.