

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 51st Legislature (2007)

3 SENATE  
4 RESOLUTION 5

By: Leftwich

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution recognizing and commending 2006 Jim  
8 Thorpe Award winner Aaron Ross; and directing  
9 distribution.

10  
11 WHEREAS, Aaron Jermaine Ross was born September 15, 1982, in San  
12 Antonio, Texas. Because of an error on his transcript, Aaron Ross  
13 was unable to play football at the University of Texas for the two  
14 years it took to straighten out the problem. During that time he  
15 received tremendous encouragement and support from his mother,  
16 Cheryl Ross; and

17 WHEREAS, Aaron Ross' persistence and hard work were eventually  
18 rewarded. As a senior at the University of Texas, he was selected  
19 for the first-team All Big 12, first-team All American, and Big 12  
20 Defensive Player of the Year honors by numerous sports  
21 organizations. He was also chosen as the University of Texas  
22 Defensive Most Valuable Player (MVP) and shared the Team MVP honor;  
23 and  
24

1       WHEREAS, Aaron Ross made 80 tackles, five interceptions,  
2 defended against 25 passes, broke up 19 passes, and had 11 takeaways  
3 during the past season. Against the three top-25-ranked opponents  
4 Texas faced, Aaron Ross made 20 tackles, two interceptions, broke up  
5 five passes, forced a fumble, and returned a fumble for a touchdown;  
6 and

7       WHEREAS, it was against the University of Oklahoma Sooners that  
8 Aaron Ross excelled. His two interceptions and one fumble recovery  
9 were the most ever during a quarter period for a University of Texas  
10 football player. That game earned him the Master Coaches Survey  
11 Game Ball for defense, the FWAA/Bronko Nagurski National Defensive  
12 Player of the Week award, and selection as the Big 12 Defensive  
13 Player of the Week; and

14       WHEREAS, Aaron Ross was also one of the top punt returners in  
15 the nation. In the past three seasons he returned 74 punts for 894  
16 yards and three touchdowns with an average of 12.1 yards per carry.  
17 Last season Ross returned 21 punts for 241 yards and became the  
18 second Longhorn player in the University of Texas history to return  
19 two punts for touchdowns in the same season; and

20       WHEREAS, Aaron Ross dedicated his college season to his mother,  
21 who encouraged and advised him throughout his college career. An  
22 education major, Aaron Ross is an active participant in the  
23 University of Texas community service program; and

24

1       WHEREAS, Aaron Ross was selected as the winner of the 2006 Jim  
2 Thorpe Award, given to the best college defensive back in the  
3 nation.

4       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION  
5 OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

6       THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes both the hard work and  
7 perseverance of Aaron Ross and the encouragement and dedication of  
8 his mother Cheryl Ross.

9       THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends Aaron Ross of the  
10 University of Texas upon his selection as the winner of the 2006 Jim  
11 Thorpe Award as the best college defensive back in the nation.

12       THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Aaron Ross; his  
13 mother, Cheryl Ross; and the Jim Thorpe Association.

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