

By Senator Rouson

16-03258A-25

20251878__

Senate Resolution

A resolution honoring the life and legacy of University of South Florida Head Basketball Coach Amir Abdur-Rahim, his many accomplishments, and his contributions to the Tampa Bay community and this state.

WHEREAS, Amir Abdur-Rahim was one of 13 children born to Deborah Hester and William Abdur-Rahim and one of six brothers from the family to play college basketball, and

WHEREAS, after successfully coaching at Kennesaw State University from 2019 to 2023, leading the Owls men's basketball team to the 2023 conference regular season and tournament titles and their first-ever berth in the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament, on March 29, 2023, Amir Abdur-Rahim became the 11th head coach of the University of South Florida (USF) Bulls men's basketball team, and

WHEREAS, Coach Amir Abdur-Rahim led the Bulls men's basketball team to a 25-8 record, including 16 wins in conference play, the most wins in program history, and USF posted 15 straight conference victories to register the program's longest-ever win streak and the longest win streak in the nation, and

WHEREAS, under Coach Amir Abdur-Rahim's leadership, the USF men's basketball team win total marked a nine-win improvement over the previous season, among the top 20 most improved in the nation in 2023-2024, and just the sixth 20-win season in program history, and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the USF men's basketball team was the

16-03258A-25

20251878__

number one seed in the American Athletic Conference tournament,
and the Bulls claimed the program's first-ever regular season
conference title with a two-game lead over the next-best team,
and

WHEREAS, during that season, under Coach Amir Abdur-Rahim's
leadership, USF earned its first-ever Top 25 ranking in men's
basketball, climbing as high as number 24 in the Associated
Press and *USA Today* Coaches Polls, and

WHEREAS, in his first season at USF, Coach Amir Abdur-Rahim
was the unanimous choice to be named the 2024 American Athletic
Conference Coach of the Year and the National Association of
Basketball Coaches (NABC) District 24 Coach of the Year, and

WHEREAS, Coach Amir Abdur-Rahim came to USF with a proven
track record of winning as a player and coach, and one of his
greatest successes was derived from his exceptional ability to
develop the young men on his team, and

WHEREAS, a beloved husband and father who passed away
October 24, 2024, Coach Amir Abdur-Rahim shared his life with
his wife of 12 years, Arianne Abdur-Rahim, and their three
children, Laila, Lana, and Aydin, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

That the Senate honors the life and legacy of University of
South Florida Head Basketball Coach Amir Abdur-Rahim and extends
its gratitude for his many accomplishments and contributions to
the Tampa Bay community and this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
presented to the family of Coach Amir Abdur-Rahim as a tangible

16-03258A-25

20251878__

59 token of the sentiments expressed herein.