

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 25

(By Delegates Morgan, Stephens, Craig, C. Miller, Sobonya,
Perdue and Reynolds)

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5

6 Recognizing the importance of the annual Marshall - WVU football
7 game and urging continuation of the series.

8 WHEREAS, Marshall University and West Virginia University are
9 our state's only Division I athletic programs; and

10 WHEREAS, Both programs are an incredible source of state pride
11 to all residents of our state, past and present; and

12 WHEREAS, Both programs provide a means for our former
13 residents, who are now alumni that live out of our state, to come
14 back and stay in touch with our state; and

15 WHEREAS, The 2010 football match-up between the Mountaineers
16 and Thundering Herd brought national attention to our state and was
17 watched by almost four million viewers on prime-time national
18 television; and

19 WHEREAS, The 2007 football match-up between the Mountaineers
20 and Thundering Herd was seen by almost two million viewers on
21 national television, even with a Saturday morning kick-off time;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The atmosphere of this game and telecast has made an
24 indelible impression on many other professionals in the world of
25 college athletics and also served as a nation-wide, positive

1 commercial for our state, one that is sorely needed; and

2 WHEREAS, Hotel rooms in the Greater Morgantown and Greater
3 Huntington areas have been filled the nights before and after the
4 WVU - MU football games in 1997, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The annual football match-up has presented a
7 tremendous opportunity for Morgantown, Huntington and the entire
8 State of West Virginia to showcase its unique tourism products
9 ranging from state parks to bed and breakfast inns, to retail
10 stores; and

11 WHEREAS, Visitors to the state and fans at the game spend
12 several million dollars in the state on goods and services
13 associated with going to the game; and

14 WHEREAS, West Virginia's small business owners, ranging from
15 tee-shirt printers to convenience store proprietors, have greatly
16 benefitted from the sales of their products to enthusiastic fans
17 from across the state who travel to the football game to show their
18 school spirit and support their team; and

19 WHEREAS, Special events such as concerts and alumni receptions
20 surrounding the "Friends of Coal Bowl" have generated additional
21 enthusiasm and economic impact from the purchase of food, supplies
22 and entertainment; and

23 WHEREAS, The telecast of the game serves as a four hour
24 commercial for our state's leading industry, the coal industry,
25 through the "Friends of Coal Bowl"; and

1 WHEREAS, The annual football match-up serves as a fall
2 complement to the annual "Capitol Classic" basketball game between
3 the WVU and Marshall men's and women's basketball teams; and

4 WHEREAS, The annual football match-up provides thousands of
5 college scholarship dollars to high school students in our state
6 who might not otherwise have a chance to attend college; and

7 WHEREAS, The annual football match-up is one of the finest
8 opportunities our state has to showcase higher education in the
9 State of West Virginia; and

10 WHEREAS, This is the biggest intercollegiate sporting event in
11 the history of our state that involves both state Division I
12 programs, and it makes no sense for a small state, such as ours, to
13 not stage the one annual event that brings national attention to
14 our two largest academic institutions; and

15 WHEREAS, With all of the benefits that are provided to our
16 state, to our young people, to our academic institutions and to our
17 residents and business people, it is only fitting that the football
18 series between West Virginia and Marshall be continued on an annual
19 basis; therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the House of Delegates:*

21 That the House of Delegates hereby recognizes the importance
22 of the annual Marshall - WVU football game and urges the
23 continuation of the series; and, be it

24 *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk of the House of Delegates
25 forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor and the

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1 Presidents of Marshall University and West Virginia University.