

Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Coach Sean Desai, the first person of South Asian and Indian heritage to attain the elite position of Defensive Coordinator in the National Football League (NFL). Sean's trailblazing ascent with the Chicago Bears football team serves as a shining example of what South Asian and Indian-Americans can achieve in our nation and in professional sports.

Coach Desai was born in Shelton, Connecticut and attended Boston University, where he majored in Philosophy and Political Science and graduated Cum Laude in 2004. He then earned a master's degree in higher and postsecondary education from Columbia University, and a doctorate in educational administration from Temple University. Post-doctorate, Coach Desai served as an adjunct professor at Temple and Defensive and Special Teams' Coordinator for the Temple Owls football team. He joined the University of Miami as Assistant Director of Football Operations in 2011 and spent the 2012 season as the Running Backs' Coach and Special Teams' Coordinator at Boston College.

In 2013, Coach Desai was hired by the Chicago Bears as a Quality Control Assistant, working with defensive backs and linebackers while assisting the special teams' coaches. Coach Desai held this position until 2018, when he was promoted to Safeties Coach. His colleagues attribute Coach Desai's meteoric rise to his experience as an educator and his ability to connect with his players. In his own words:

"The ability to develop and have a chance to lead young men and bring them past what they can do . . . opened my eyes to a whole new world of education. To me, that's what an educator has to do—whatever you are teaching . . . I mean, if you're not out there to develop and help bring kids to a place that they can't be on their own, then I don't know what the purpose of education is.

Racial biases have thwarted upward mobility for men and women of color since the NFL's inception in 1920. As the first South-Asian and Indian-American Defensive Coordinator in the NFL, Coach Desai will inspire young men and women of all ethnicities and races to believe that they can and should aspire to positions of leadership in professional sports.

As a die-hard Chicago Bears fan, I am thrilled to congratulate Coach Sean Desai on his remarkable achievement with the Bears and the trail he is blazing for future generations. I wish him great success in his new role and in all his future endeavors. Let's Go Bears!