

1 Temple family with each generation building on the intellectual and cultural foundations laid
2 by their predecessors; and

3 WHEREAS, Collis Temple Jr. stood on the shoulders of giants; his parents were
4 college graduates and civil rights activists who instilled in their children the importance of
5 self-respect, education, and hard work; he inherited two proverbs from his father, "If a man
6 beats you thinking, he'll beat you living," and "You can't get ahead if you stay in the bed";
7 and

8 WHEREAS, in the 1950s Collis B. Temple Sr. was denied admittance to graduate
9 studies at LSU due to his race; he sued and the settlement offered to him was receipt of
10 federal monies to attend Michigan State University where he earned a master's degree in
11 education; and

12 WHEREAS, as a top prospect for collegiate hoops, Collis Temple Jr. visited ten
13 schools outside of Louisiana; in an unusual twist of fate, an offer to attend LSU came from
14 Governor John McKeithen who had essentially handpicked Collis to break the racial barrier
15 in Tiger basketball; and

16 WHEREAS, Collis Sr. held no malice toward LSU and convinced young Collis that
17 he was the right person at the right time to take this enormous step; and

18 WHEREAS, in the South, after the passage of the Civil Rights Act, universities were
19 slow to recruit African-American student athletes; in 1971, when Temple broke the color
20 barrier in a high profile sport like LSU basketball, he drew local and national attention to the
21 university and himself; during that time, Temple experienced a scathing mixture of adversity
22 and racial prejudice at nearly every turn; and

23 WHEREAS, during his first two years on the court, Temple's talents were squandered
24 on secondary positions while upperclassmen were given more preferential opportunities; in
25 his junior year, Coach Dale Brown arrived and named him team captain; Temple excelled
26 on the court and began to experience some well-deserved respect for his innate abilities; and

27 WHEREAS, Collis Temple Jr. was the first of 89 African-American players coached
28 by Coach Dale Brown in his twenty-five years at LSU; from that first team, Coach Brown
29 remembers Temple as its most prominent player; he also recognized his exceptional athletic
30 talent and his fortitude to be a pioneer for change; and

1 WHEREAS, after his basketball career, Temple became a successful real estate
2 entrepreneur and operator of twenty-two group homes for disabled and disadvantaged youth
3 in Baton Rouge; however, basketball was always in his soul and on his mind; and

4 WHEREAS, he graciously declined numerous pleas from Coach Brown to become
5 an assistant basketball coach; and

6 WHEREAS, he founded an Amateur Athletic Union Boys Basketball team, the
7 Sports Academy on Laurel Street, a facility that Temple used as a training center for
8 nurturing promising young talent; LSU's Sweet 16 team in 2000 and the Final Four in 2006
9 were all players Temple had coached in the AAU; graduates from his program include Glen
10 "Big Baby" Davis, Tasmin Mitchell, Tyrus Thomas, Jarell Martin, Jermaine Williams,
11 Marqus Ledoux, and Brad Bridgewater, along with Temple's three sons, Collis III, Elliot,
12 and Garrett; and

13 WHEREAS, Temple has made an indelible mark on Louisiana sports history and
14 continued the Temple legacy with all three sons attending University High School; the eldest
15 son, Collis III, was the youngest ball boy in LSU basketball history and played for LSU from
16 1999 until 2003; his middle son, Elliot, played at University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and
17 the youngest son, Garrett, was an LSU freshman starter on the 2006 LSU varsity team and
18 now plays in the NBA for the Sacramento Kings; and

19 WHEREAS, Temple continues to embrace all things LSU; he actively recruits talent
20 and several years ago he was honored by LSU Systems President John Lombardi to be
21 selected to serve on the search committee to find a new athletic director; and

22 WHEREAS, Collis Temple continues to move forward; his presence changed the
23 landscape of varsity sports and the LSU basketball program as it grew past the Maravich
24 years; he watched two of his sons follow in his footsteps to become highly touted LSU
25 players; he witnessed African-Americans being hired as head coaches and Eli Jones named
26 as Dean of the College of Business where his father, Collis Sr., was refused admission; and

27 WHEREAS, Collis Temple Jr. has a sincere appreciation for how Louisiana State
28 University has progressed in the last forty-seven years and its vision for future achievements
29 yet to be realized; and

30 WHEREAS, Collis Temple Jr. was inducted into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of

1 Fame in 1995, named Mr. Louisiana Basketball for 2015 by the Louisiana Association of
2 Basketball Coaches, and honored by the Sacramento Kings during Black History Month; and

3 WHEREAS, a Chinese proverb states, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with
4 a single step"; it took tremendous courage and tenacity for Collis Temple Jr. to step onto the
5 basketball court in 1971; his actions precipitated a profound change in the attitudes of
6 acceptance at LSU and other institutions of higher education throughout the South; and

7 WHEREAS, in the face of repeated racism, Collis Jr. was patient and persistent; he
8 endured rejection, but he would not be ignored; and

9 WHEREAS, the unwavering support that Collis Temple Jr. has for LSU basketball
10 speaks volumes about his character and leadership and the Temple legacy continues to be
11 as powerful and influential as any family in the history of LSU sports.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
13 commend Collis B. Temple Jr. for his continued support and commitment to varsity
14 basketball at Louisiana State University and does hereby acknowledge his significant,
15 long-term contributions made to improve the sport in the state of Louisiana.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
17 Collis B. Temple Jr.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Suzi Montague.

DIGEST

SCR 15 Original

2017 First Extraordinary Session

Claitor

Commends Collis B. Temple Jr. for his support of and commitment to LSU basketball.