

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

BY SENATOR BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Artis M. Davenport II on his many accomplishments.

WHEREAS, Dr. Artis M. Davenport II is a native of Monroe, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Monroe Colored High School in 1944 and in the fall of that year, enrolled at Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama, as a regular student; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Dr. Davenport was drafted into the United States Army and after serving in Japan for a year, he returned to Tuskegee and joined the football team, earning his letter as a fullback and linebacker; and

WHEREAS, he received his Bachelor of Science in physical education/health and social studies from Tuskegee Institute in 1950; and

WHEREAS, he also attended Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he earned a Master of Science in physical education/education administration in 1955 and a Doctor of Education in physical education/educational administration in 1971; and

WHEREAS, he began his teaching career as a social studies and physical education instructor at Carrie Martin Elementary and High School in Plain Dealing, Louisiana, and also served as athletic director, head football coach, and head basketball coach; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Davenport began his college coaching career at Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi, where he served as line coach in football and head track coach, leading the track teams to the conference championships each year during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, he was also employed at Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he served as backfield coach in football, junior varsity basketball coach, and head track coach, leading the track team to the conference championship; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, Dr. Davenport transferred to Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) where he was hired as assistant professor of physical education; and

WHEREAS, SUNO did not have an athletic program at that time, and beginning with teams comprised of athletes from the intramural program, the university competed and fought for approval of an athletic program for twelve years before being approved in 1972; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving as track coach for thirty-eight years, Dr. Davenport also served as director of men's physical education and as intramural director for nine years, project director for the National Youth Sports Program for ten years, chairman of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department for twenty-eight years, director of athletics for eighteen years, and the university graduation marshal for thirty-four years; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the track teams at SUNO won seven national track and field championships, and he developed forty individual national track champions, ten national track relay championship teams, nine track and field Olympians, and one hundred seventy-eight track and field All-Americans; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Davenport was named National Coach of the Year four times by the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics and three times by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and had an impressive graduation rate of more than ninety percent when his athletes competed for three or more years; and

WHEREAS, he retired from SUNO in 1999, and in 2000, began working at Bethune-Cookman College as a part-time assistant track coach, and was appointed head coach of the women's bowling team in 2004-2005, winning the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championship and finishing fourth in the NCAA national bowling championship; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Davenport has been inducted into several halls of fame, including the Greater New Orleans Sports Hall of Fame, the Tuskegee University Athletic Hall of Fame, and the SUNO Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, his teaching and coaching experience at the collegiate level spans forty-eight years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Davenport has been the recipient of numerous awards, including coach of the year honors by the NAIA for men and women athletic teams in multiple years,

the certificate of appreciation from the Southern University Board of Supervisors for thirty-five years of outstanding and dedicated service to SUNO, an honors plaque from the Nokia Sugar Bowl for outstanding achievement, a certificate of merit from the city of New Orleans for outstanding service, and was presented with a proclamation from the New Orleans City Council for thirty-four years of exemplary leadership and dedication in track and field; and

WHEREAS, he has been a member of several professional organizations, including the Louisiana Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics-Athletics Directors Association, American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, United States Track Coaches Association, National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many achievements in teaching and coaching, Dr. Artis M. Davenport II has earned the respect and admiration of countless citizens whose lives he has touched; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depends, in great measure, upon the dedication of people like Dr. Artis M. Davenport II; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Artis M. Davenport II merits the highest commendation and most sincere congratulations upon his accomplishments and achievements as a coach and educator.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Artis M. Davenport II on his many accomplishments and does hereby wish him continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Artis M. Davenport II.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE