

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY SENATOR PRICE

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Grambling State University Tigers men's basketball team, head coach, assistant coaches, athletic director, and university president for their outstanding 2017-2018 season.

WHEREAS, the Grambling State University Tigers men's basketball team finished the season with a record of seventeen wins; and

WHEREAS, Grambling State secured the school's first Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) regular season title in thirty years (1988-89) and first winning season since the 2005-2006 season after performing at record setting levels of excellence; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers brought attention to the Grambling State program and pride to the university with a school record eleven game winning streak; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers were led by sophomore Ivy Smith Jr, senior Shirmane Thomas, sophomore Anthony Gaston, senior Jason Perry-Murray, and sophomore Devante Jackson, who have each contributed greatly to the success of the Grambling State University Tigers men's basketball team along with other team members, Shaq Athie, Nigel Ribeiro, Kareem Wright, Drake Wilks, Axel Mpoyo, Bobby Jackson, Charles Simmons, Zavier Peart, Prince Moss, Diing Wol, Diontae Jones, Lasani Johnson, and Travon Bunch; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary accomplishments of the Tigers could not have been achieved without the guidance and skills of their Head Coach Donte' Jackson, Assistant Coaches Winston Hines, Demetrius Moore, and Kyle Jones, Athletics Director Paul Bryant, and the honorable President Richard J. Gallot Jr., all of whom have demonstrated the kind of leadership and motivational skills needed to produce champion achievement both on the basketball court and in life; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers rallied from nine down in the final three minutes to force overtime and defeat Alabama A&M, 84-74, to capture a Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) regular season championship; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers overcame both the odds and expectations finishing as champions after they were predicted to finish seventh in the preseason coaches' poll; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers' coach Donte' Jackson earned honors at the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC), NCAA Division I District 23 Coach of the Year, the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Coach of the Year, and the Ben Jobe National Coach of the Year by Collegeinsider.com; and

WHEREAS, with the win over Alabama A&M, the 2017-2018 Tigers men's basketball team brought home the first regular season championship since 1988-89 with one game left in the season; and

WHEREAS, the talents and determination of the Grambling State University Tigers men's basketball team provided its fans with exciting basketball competition; and

WHEREAS, the members and coaches of the Grambling State University men's basketball team merit a sincere measure of commendation for their remarkable athletic feats and for the honor they have brought to Grambling State University.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the members of the Grambling State University Tigers men's basketball team, Head Coach Donte' Jackson, Assistant Coaches Winston Hines, Demetrius Moore and Kyle Jones, Athletics Director Paul Bryant, and the honorable President Richard J. Gallot Jr., for their outstanding achievements during the 2017-2018 season, which included competing and winning the first Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) regular season title, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride that they have brought to the University of Louisiana System, the Grambling State University, the community, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Head Coach Donte' Jackson.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE