

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 203

BY SENATOR PERRY

A RESOLUTION

To commend John Bourque, Acadia Parish schools superintendent, on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, John Bourque, schools superintendent in Acadia Parish, will retire at the end of June 2018 after fifty-two years of dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bourque worked in the education system as a teacher, coach, principal, and superintendent; and

WHEREAS, his career began in 1965 at the Academy of the Immaculate Conception, which later became Opelousas Catholic, where he coached the basketball team to an appearance in the Louisiana High School Athletic Association Top 20 and served as an assistant coach on the 1974 state championship football team; and

WHEREAS, from there, he began coaching at Eunice High School, where he was the head football coach and led the Bobcats to the 1982 Class 3A state championship; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Mr. Bourque became the principal at Eunice High School and held that position until being named the Acadia Parish superintendent in 2002; and

WHEREAS, upon retiring, he is looking forward to spending more time with his family; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bourque says the most worthwhile experience in five decades of education is changing students' lives; and

WHEREAS, he also said, "The biggest thing is when former students come back and tell you that you had a big part in their success in life."; and

WHEREAS, as a person dedicated to changing the lives of students, Mr. Bourque's words shine a light on his time spent as an educator, coach, and superintendent: "I had a student tell me that I was his favorite teacher in high school. I was just a coach, but to hear that means everything to me."; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of its communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend in great measure upon people like John Bourque who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend John Bourque on the occasion of his retirement after fifty-two years of serving the students of Acadia Parish; record and recognize his numerous contributions to this state; extend to him much appreciation for his long, dedicated, and generous service; and express sincere wishes for health and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to John Bourque.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE