

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 235

BY SENATORS GATTI AND PEACOCK

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Benton High School Tigers baseball team on winning the Louisiana High School Athletic Association Class 4A state championship.

WHEREAS, the Benton High School Tigers defeated the DeRidder High School Dragons by a score of 13-2 to become the 2018 Louisiana High School Athletic Association Class 4A state champions at McMurry Park in Sulphur, Louisiana, on Saturday, May 12, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers got the bats going in the top of the second inning when Clint Lasiter singled to left center to score designated hitter Sam Simmons, who reached earlier in the inning on a walk to give the Tigers the early 1-0 lead; and

WHEREAS, in the top of the third inning the Tigers scored seven runs and never looked back as they dominated the third-seeded DeRidder High School Dragons; and

WHEREAS, junior pitcher Turner Toms was sensational on the mound for the Tigers as he pitched the complete game seven innings and only allowed three hits, no walks, struck out eight batters, and was named Most Outstanding Player in the title game; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers opened things up in the top of the third inning with sophomore third baseman Cade Scott, senior shortstop Cody Norris, sophomore outfielder Turner Timms, senior second baseman Garrett Hable, junior designated hitter Sam Simmons, junior right fielder J.T. Brice, and freshman left fielder Clint Lasiter all scoring and catapulting the Tigers to an 8-0 advantage; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers added three more runs in the top of the fifth inning to increase the lead to 11-2, with Clint Lasiter leading off the top of the fifth for the Tigers and reaching base on a walk; and

WHEREAS, Cade Scott then singled in the gap between third and the shortstop to advance Clint Lasiter to second, and the Tigers' third batter, Cody Norris, put down a perfectly executed bunt to load the bases for the Tigers; and

WHEREAS, Cole Horton was hit by a pitch to score Clint Lasiter and Garrett Hable singled to right center to score Cade Scott; and

WHEREAS, Brennan Blaylock hit a sacrifice fly to the right fielder which was deep enough to score Cody Norris for the final run of the fifth inning; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers added two runs in the top of the seventh inning as Sam Simmons blasted a single to left field to score Peyton Long and J.T. Brice hit a sacrifice fly to score Garrett Hable to conclude the scoring in the dominating victory for the Tigers; and

WHEREAS, the members of the talented Tigers squad, Cody Norris, Kade Bailey, Garrett Hable, Brennan Blaylock, J.T. Brice, Hayden Gatti, Cole Horton, Andrew McPherson, Peyton Long, Brandon Seymour, Cade Scott, Tanner Timms, Jack Walters, Brock Van Hoy, Clint Lasiter, Colbey Sharp, Landon Joyner, Cameron Ross, Drew Haynes, Dane Stearns, Turner Toms, Sam Simmons, Jackson Illingsworth, Keegan Rogers, and Daniel Halbert, merit recognition and congratulations for their extraordinary performance and their competitive spirit throughout the season and the tournament; and

WHEREAS, the members of the team performed at the highest level of athletic excellence throughout the tournament and each of them deserves recognition for their vital contribution to the winning effort; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach J.D. Stephens, and assistant coaches, Brian France, Bryan George, B.J. Ryan, and Greg Bryant, instilled an ethic of winning and demonstrated the kind of leadership and motivational skills needed to produce winners both on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, the Benton High School Tigers baseball team is recognized for the well-deserved accolades earned throughout the season and showcasing the extraordinary athletic abilities they have displayed, particularly at the most difficult level of high school competition.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere congratulations to the Benton High School Tigers baseball team and their coaches for winning the Louisiana High School Athletic Association Class 4A state championship and for the sportsmanship shown while achieving such high honors for themselves, for Benton High School, the city of Benton, and the state of Louisiana.

**SR NO. 235**

**ENROLLED**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the principal of Benton High School.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE