

2021 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY SENATOR BERNARD

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Angela Turner-Johnson on being inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Angela Turner-Johnson, famed womens basketball player at Louisiana Tech
3 University, upon the occasion of her induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of
4 Fame.

5 WHEREAS, native Louisianian, Angela Turner-Johnson, as a member of the
6 Louisiana Tech University's "Lady Techsters" of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics
7 for Women (AIAW) championship basketball team in 1981, a Kodak All-American, and a
8 member of the squad that won the first National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA)
9 women's championship in 1982, certainly has the credentials to merit inclusion in the
10 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame; and

11 WHEREAS, Angela Turner grew up in Saline, Louisiana, in Bienville Parish and
12 attended now-closed Shady Grove High School, eventually graduating as a member of the
13 class of 1978; and

14 WHEREAS, while at Shady Grove, Ms. Turner was named Miss Shady Grove and
15 she was valedictorian of her class, student body president, and the star of the girls basketball
16 team, averaging nearly thirty-one points and fifteen rebounds per game in her senior year;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Angela Turner led her small Class C high school team to the state

1 championship in 1978 with a season record of forty-six wins and one loss, and she was
2 named the outstanding player in Class C girls basketball in both her junior and senior years;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Angela was always interested in sports and played football in
5 elementary school, but as there was almost no playing opportunities for girls in football, she
6 turned her attention to basketball, playing in backyards and school playgrounds against boys
7 who were bigger and taller than she; and

8 WHEREAS, because the boys were consistently blocking her lay up shots, Angela
9 Turner perfected what would become her trademark mid-range jumper shot, a shot that at
10 the time only boys were successfully making; and

11 WHEREAS, in the summer of 1978, before moving on to play at Louisiana Tech
12 University, Ms. Turner played on the United States Junior National team, and averaged
13 twelve points per game as the U.S. took home the silver medal, having faced teams from
14 both North America and South America; and

15 WHEREAS, Angela was recruited by future Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame inductees
16 and then coaches at Louisiana Tech, Sonja Hogg and Leon Barmore, to play basketball at
17 the institution not far from her home; and

18 WHEREAS, Coach Hogg recalls Angela telling her during a recruiting visit, "Miss
19 Hogg, we're going to win the national championship"; a bold statement that was evidence
20 of Angela's "can do" attitude; and

21 WHEREAS, as Angela Turner, "A.T." to her teammates, arrived on campus in
22 Ruston, Louisiana, the Lady Techsters were only four years into the womens basketball
23 program and were playing under the auspices of the AIAW, rather than the NCAA; and

24 WHEREAS, Angela Turner's four years at Louisiana Tech brought two national
25 titles, one with AIAW and one with the NCAA and two additional women's final four
26 appearances, establishing a tradition of excellence in womens basketball that has continued
27 into the twenty-first century, still claiming a spot among the most successful womens
28 programs in the history of college athletics; and

29 WHEREAS, "A.T." was a significant contributor to that legacy as she was named
30 most valuable player of the final four in 1981 under the AIAW, a member of the first NCAA

1 Womens basketball national championship team in 1982, and garnered the honor of being
2 named a Kodak All-American; and

3 WHEREAS, Angela Turner averaged sixteen and just over eighteen points,
4 respectively, in her first two seasons at Tech, scoring primarily off her mid-range jump shot
5 that usually came at the end of a series of picks in a play that at Louisiana Tech was called
6 "Two Down"; and

7 WHEREAS, basketball teams today use that same scheme and former Techster
8 assistant coach, now at Texas A&M University, Gary Blair, calls the play simply "Tech";
9 and

10 WHEREAS, in their final season in the AIAW, 1980-81, The Lady Techsters went
11 thirty-four and zero, facing the University of Southern California in the semi-final game in
12 which "A.T." had fourteen points in the victory; and

13 WHEREAS, the Techsters went on to face rival University of Tennessee in the final
14 where Angela Turner and teammates Pat Kelly and Janice Lawrence scored sixteen points
15 each to lead the team, and "A.T.", having played seventy-nine of the eighty minutes in the
16 two games, was named most valuable player of the Final Four; and

17 WHEREAS, the following season, 1981-82 the team played under the auspices of
18 the NCAA and captured the first NCAA womens basketball national championship, one of
19 three they would win in the coming decades; and

20 WHEREAS, the 1981-82 title game was Angela Turner's final appearance in a
21 basketball uniform, walking off the court with another national championship on her
22 resume'; and

23 WHEREAS, Angela Turner was inducted into the Louisiana Tech Athletics Hall of
24 Fame in 1990 at which time her No. 5 jersey was retired; and

25 WHEREAS, the fabled Louisiana Tech womens basketball program has amassed a
26 total of three national championships and appearances in thirteen final fours, twenty-three
27 sweet sixteens, and twenty-seven national tournaments in the thirty-eight years since that
28 first one in 1982; and

29 WHEREAS, Angela made impressions on her coaches and her teammates as Coach
30 Hogg stated: "A.T. and Pam (Kelly) were the cornerstones of our program" and, "She (A.T.)

1 was the kind of player that would walk through a wall for you"; high praise from a
2 well-respected and beloved coach; and

3 WHEREAS, teammates, Kim Mulkey, current coach of the Louisiana State
4 University Tigers and also a Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame inductee, recalls, "A.T. had a
5 mid-range jump shot back in the day when it was mostly just men who were shooting
6 them ... she was, and is, just a kind and classy person"; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1982, Angela Turner became one of the first ten women to receive
8 an NCAA postgraduate scholarship which allowed her to become a certified public
9 accountant, giving her a brighter future, both economically and as a professional in her field;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Angela Turner left her mark on womens basketball at Louisiana Tech,
12 on her coaches and fellow players, and she has achieved a nearly forty-year career as a
13 certified public accountant that led her as far from Bienville Parish as Los Angeles,
14 California, and London, England, eventually leading her to a quieter life with her husband
15 Troy Johnson as a wife, mother, and grandmother in Carrollton, Texas; and

16 WHEREAS, joining her coaches and teammates in the Louisiana Sports Hall of
17 Fame, an honor that many see as long overdue, is an honor and a recognition of which
18 Angela Turner-Johnson is rightly entitled, for her exploits on the basketball court, her
19 academic achievements in both high school and college, her role in making womens
20 basketball players celebrities in Ruston, and the significant contributions she made to
21 building a championship womens basketball program at Louisiana Tech University, and for
22 living a life of which she can be very proud.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
24 does hereby commend Angela Turner-Johnson, famed womens basketball player at
25 Louisiana Tech University, upon the occasion of her induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall
26 of Fame.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
28 Mrs. Angela Turner-Johnson.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Ann S. Brown.

SR 31 Original	DIGEST 2021 Regular Session	Bernard
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