

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY REPRESENTATIVES WHEAT AND FREIBERG

A RESOLUTION

To commend centenarian Julia "Hurricane" Hawkins for her athletic accomplishments.

WHEREAS, Ms. Hawkins was born in 1916 and grew up in Ponchatoula, Louisiana; she celebrated her one hundred sixth birthday on February 10, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hawkins attended college at Louisiana State University and graduated in 1938; after graduating, she worked for many years as a teacher in Baton Rouge and spent time teaching in Honduras while working for United Fruit Company; and

WHEREAS, Julia met her future husband, the late Murray Hawkins, while attending LSU; the two were wed over the telephone while Murray, a member of the United States Navy, was stationed at Pearl Harbor during World War II; following his return from duty, the couple shared seventy loving years of marriage until his passing; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hawkins has rightfully earned national acclaim for her incredible athletic accomplishments; she has been featured on numerous occasions in publications such as *The Advocate*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Runners World*, and *The Washington Post*; she also has a published memoir, *It's Been Wondrous!*; and

WHEREAS, Julia knows no task too tall to overcome; at seventy-five years old, she began bicycling in senior games and self-trained by regularly riding a ten-kilometer route around her neighborhood; her training paid off as it led to winning a bronze medal at her first National Senior Games in San Antonio, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Julia has gone on to achieve a number of truly astonishing feats since her first competition; she began competing in sprinting events at the age of one hundred, and in 2017, she set a world record for the 100-meter dash for the 100-104 age group at the National Senior games with a time of just over thirty-nine seconds; last year, she became the first female track and field athlete, and first American, to set a world record in the 100-meter dash for the 105+ age group with a time of 1:02.95; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hawkins is a truly awe-inspiring woman who embodies the spirit of determination; she is most deserving of the highest recognition for her countless achievements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend centenarian Julia "Hurricane" Hawkins for her athletic accomplishments; does hereby further recognize Ms. Hawkins for serving as an inspiration to all who hope to achieve greatness; and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that she reach even greater heights as she continues her outstanding athletic career.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Julia Hawkins.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES