

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 54

BY SENATOR BERNARD

A RESOLUTION

To commend Claney Duplechin on being inducted into the 2022 class of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in Natchitoches, Louisiana, each year collaborates with the Louisiana Sports Writers Association in selecting a limited number of sports figures who embody the character, skill, and talent worthy of being named to the Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class includes Claney Duplechin; and

WHEREAS, Claney Duplechin is a track and field and cross country coach at Episcopal School of Baton Rouge, and currently in his forty-sixth year coaching and forty-third year at the Class 2A school; and

WHEREAS, a native of Mamou and a graduate of Mamou High School, Claney Duplechin wanted to be a coach since he was in eighth grade; and

WHEREAS, while attending Mamou High School, Duplechin played four sports with baseball being his best; and

WHEREAS, Claney attended Louisiana State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in physical education, social studies, and drivers' education, and a Master of Education in educational supervision and administration; and

WHEREAS, Duplechin spent three years at Catholic High School as an assistant to Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame inductee Pete Boudreaux; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Duplechin left Catholic High to become head football and track coach at Episcopal School of Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, Duplechin has had tremendous success as a coach and is especially recognized for his record as a track and cross country coach; and

WHEREAS, at the middle of the 2021-22 school year, already having sixty-four Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) state titles in track and fifteen runner-up finishes, added an additional two cross country titles: one indoor track title, and one outdoor track title; and

WHEREAS, MaxPreps ranked Duplechin's total number of titles at sixth nationally in all sports in May 2021; and

WHEREAS, the boys cross country team had a streak of twenty-five consecutive LHSAA titles end by four points in November 2021; the only streak that was longer, twenty-seven in a row by Arizona-based Keams Hopi, ended in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Episcopal has won thirty-three of the last thirty-six Class 2A boys cross country titles and has been voted the top team in all classes six times; and

WHEREAS, Duplechin's boys teams have won seventeen outdoor track titles, nine indoor track titles, swept Class 2A boys cross country, Division II indoor track (Class 3A and below), and Class 2A outdoor track for five years, losing a chance at a sixth in a row when the coronavirus eliminated all LHSAA outdoor meets in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Duplechin added girls cross country to his duties in 2018, and has won four straight titles; and

WHEREAS, Duplechin has been recognized as a national coach of the year three times: the Gill National Track Coach of the Year in 2012, the National Federation of High School Coaches Cross Country Coach of the Year in 2013, and the National High School Athletic Coach of the Year for cross country in 2018; and

WHEREAS, MaxPreps rated Claney Duplechin as one of the nation's top one hundred coaches in all sports in 2020.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Claney Duplechin on being inducted into the 2022 class of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Claney Duplechin.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE