

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 65

BY SENATORS BERNARD, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HEWITT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, FRED MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, STINE, TALBOT, WARD, WHITE AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To commend Tony Robichaux 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 Tony Robichaux; and

WHEREAS, Tony Robichaux, who served as his own pitching coach, coached his entire career at two Louisiana schools: McNeese State University from 1988 to 1994, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) from 1995 to 2019; and

WHEREAS, he is the only coach in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) history to rank as the winningest career coach at two different NCAA Division I schools in the same state; and

WHEREAS, in his eight seasons at McNeese, his alma mater, Robichaux compiled the most wins of any coach in school history with two hundred sixty-three victories, an average of thirty-three wins per year; and

WHEREAS, Robichaux was named the Southland Conference (SLC) Coach-of-the-Year in 1988, his first permanent season as head coach at McNeese; and

WHEREAS, during his time, McNeese won its first-ever Southland Conference (SLC) championship in 1988, its first SLC tournament championship in 1993, appeared in two NCAA Regional Tournaments (1988 and 1993), and achieved its first-ever national ranking in 1994; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Robichaux assumed the helm of the ULL Ragin' Cajuns baseball team and charted a course that led him to become the all-time winningest coach in ULL history with nine hundred fourteen victories, nine forty-win seasons, and led the Ragin' Cajuns to twelve NCAA regional appearances, four super regional appearances, and the 2000 College World Series (CWS), at the time tying for the most wins by a first-time CWS participant; and

WHEREAS, ULL hosted the school's first-ever NCAA baseball regional in 2000, hosted NCAA baseball regionals in 2014 and 2016, and additionally in 2014, hosted ULL's and the Sun Belt Conference's first super regional; and

WHEREAS, Robichaux's ULL baseball teams earned seven Sun Belt Conference regular season titles and four Sun Belt Conference Tournament titles; and

WHEREAS, Robichaux coached twenty-nine All-Americans, five Academic All-Americans, ninety All-Sun Belt players, fifty-five All-Louisiana players, six Sun Belt Pitchers-of-the-Year, and three Louisiana Pitchers-of-the-Year; and

WHEREAS, during his career, Robichaux had eighty-six players chosen in the Major League Baseball (MLB) draft, sixty-seven ULL players, nineteen McNeese players, and includes five draftees who played at the major league level; and

WHEREAS, Robichaux received the American Baseball Coaches Association/Diamond Sports South Central Region Coach-of-the-Year honors four times, the Sun Belt Coach-of-the-Year four times, and the All-Louisiana Coach-of-the-Year six times; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Robichaux became the fifty-first coach in NCAA Division I history to post one thousand career wins and was one of the top active NCAA Division I head coaches in career victories; and

WHEREAS, throughout Robichaux's tenure, the Ragin' Cajuns of ULL received several national rankings including the school's first ever number one ranking in 2014, the year the Ragin' Cajuns set the school record for wins; and

WHEREAS, Tony Robichaux was inducted into the McNeese Athletics Hall of Fame in 2017 and the ULL Athletics Hall of Fame and the American Baseball Coaches Association's Hall of Fame in 2021.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Tony Robichaux 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 his wife, Colleen Robichaux.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE