

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATORS BERNARD AND BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Paul Byrd on being inducted into the 2023 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 2023 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class includes Paul Byrd; and

WHEREAS, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, and a graduate of Saint Xavier High School, Paul Byrd is a former Major League Baseball (MLB) pitcher, an Emmy award-winning broadcaster, and a best-selling author; and

WHEREAS, Paul Byrd spent his collegiate baseball career at Louisiana State University (LSU) from 1989 to 1991, and he helped lead the LSU baseball team to three consecutive appearances in the NCAA Men's College World Series; and

WHEREAS, with an overall team season record of 55-18, Paul helped the LSU baseball team win the 1991 NCAA Men's College World Series, assisting the LSU baseball team to become the 1991 National Champions and capture LSU's first baseball national title; and

WHEREAS, a right-handed pitcher, Paul is a two-time Academic All-SEC Player, a team GPA leader, holds the LSU school record for victories in a single season with 17 in 1990, going 17-6 with a 3.84 Earned Run Average (ERA) in 140.2 innings, including six complete games, while striking out 130 batters to earn Baseball America Second Team All-America honors, and remains in the top five in both career pitching with 31 wins and career strikeouts with 319; and

WHEREAS, Paul Byrd was drafted in the 4th round of the 1991 Major League Baseball draft by the Cleveland Indians and he went on to a 14-year MLB pitching career, compiling a 109-96 record with a 4.41 ERA; and

WHEREAS, Paul was sought after by numerous teams for his leadership in the locker room, and during his baseball career, he pitched for the New York Mets, the Atlanta Braves, the Philadelphia Phillies, the Kansas City Royals, the Los Angeles Angels, the Cleveland Indians, and the Boston Red Sox; and

WHEREAS, during the 14 years that Paul played in the MLB, he was 15-11 pitching for the Philadelphia Phillies in 1999; he was 7-11 in 2002 pitching for a 100-game-loss Kansas City Royals team; and in 2007, he was 15-8 pitching for the Cleveland Indians; and

WHEREAS, Paul was named the MLB National Player of the Week for the week of August 22, 1998, and he was a member of the National League team in the 1999 MLB All-Star Game; and

WHEREAS, after shoulder reconstruction in 2000 and thinking he would never play baseball again, Paul began to swing his arms and brought back the double-pump wind-up which became his signature delivery and brand in baseball; and

WHEREAS, on certain pitches, Paul also started stepping behind the pitching rubber to change the effective velocity of a pitch, something MLB had never seen in the history of the game and eventually requiring a new rule to be added to the handbook; and

WHEREAS, Paul was named the 2002 Kansas City Royals Pitcher of the Year and was awarded the Frank Gibbons-Steve Olin Good Guy Award by members of the Cleveland chapter of the Baseball Writers Association of America in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Paul posted wins in the American League Division Series against the New York Yankees and in the American League Championship Series against the Boston Red Sox to help Cleveland reach the 2007 MLB World Series and Paul becoming only one of two pitchers to beat those storied clubs in the same post season; and

WHEREAS, Paul retired from major league baseball in 2009 and has gone on to become a best-selling author, an Emmy award-winning broadcaster for Fox Sports, a highly sought after professional speaker, and cofounder and Board President of Byrdhouse Ministries.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Paul Byrd on being inducted into the 2023 class of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Paul Byrd.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE