

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY SENATORS BERNARD AND BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Walter Davis 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 Walter Davis; and

WHEREAS, a native of Arnaudville, Louisiana, and a graduate of Beau Chene High School, Walter Davis did not start out as a track and field athlete; in fact he was an all-state basketball player who decided to try track his junior year of high school; and

WHEREAS, Walter Davis began his collegiate career at Barton County Community College in Great Bend, Kansas, and in 1999 and 2000, he competed in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Men's Indoor Track and Field Championships, and became the 2000 NJCAA Outdoor Triple Jump Champion and the 2000 NJCAA Outdoor Long Jump Champion; and

WHEREAS, Walter had a short but highly productive career at Louisiana State University (LSU) from 2001 to 2002 after transferring from Barton County Community College; and

WHEREAS, although he only spent two seasons at LSU, Walter Davis is the most decorated man in LSU track history; he is a six-time national champion, a nine-time All-American, a seven-time Southeastern Conference (SEC) champion, holds three LSU school records, and a perfect record of 17-0 in triple jump competitions during his LSU collegiate career; and

WHEREAS, at the 2001 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Indoor Track and Field Championships, Walter placed first in the triple jump and second in the long jump, scoring 18 of LSU's 34 points in a one-point win over Texas Christian University and helping the team win its first NCAA Indoor crown; and

WHEREAS, a year later at the 2002 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships held in Baton Rouge, Walter claimed both the triple jump and long jump titles, ran the lead-off leg in the winning 4 by 100 relay, and scored twenty-two and a half percent of his team's points, helping LSU win its second national title; and

WHEREAS, after winning the 2002 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field National Championship, the LSU men's track and field team received an invitation to visit the White House; during the visit, Walter Davis presented President George H. W. Bush with an LSU warm-up suit; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, having qualified for both the triple jump and the long jump, Walter represented the United States of America (USA) at the 2000 Olympic Games held in Sydney, Australia, and finished 11th in the triple jump; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Walter represented the USA at the 2004 Olympic Games held in Athens, Greece, competing in both the long jump and the triple jump; and

WHEREAS, also in 2004, Walter Davis was inducted into the Barton County Community College Sports Hall of Fame; Walter is Barton County Community College's first Olympian in any sport and the school record-holder for both the long jump and the triple jump; and

WHEREAS, Walter Davis represented the USA at the World Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Championships a combination of eight times; and

WHEREAS, Walter Davis is the 2005 World Outdoor Triple Jump Champion, the 2006 World Indoor Triple Jump Champion, the 2003 World Indoor Triple Jump Silver Medalist, and the 2007 World Outdoor Triple Jump Bronze Medalist; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, at the age of 33, Davis once again qualified for the USA Olympic team; and

WHEREAS, Walter Davis was inducted into the LSU Athletics Hall of Fame in September 2019.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Walter Davis 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 Walter Davis.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE