

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY SENATORS BERNARD AND BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Matt Forte 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 Matt Forte; and

WHEREAS, Matt Forte grew up in Slidell, Louisiana, and graduated from Slidell High School in 2004, where he was a letterman in football and track & field; and

WHEREAS, Matt played National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I college football at Tulane University in New Orleans; in 2007, he was the only Bowl Championship Series non-automatic qualification conference athlete to be a semifinalist for both the Maxwell and Doak Walker Awards, named to the Walter Camp Player of the Year List, and one of just three players nationally named to all three lists; and

WHEREAS, Matt had a breakout season as a senior with a school-record 2,127 rushing yards and averaged 5.9 yards per carry with a school-record of 23 touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, a two-time All-Conference USA pick, Matt garnered attention at the 2008 Senior Bowl in Mobile, Alabama, walking away with the Overall Most Valuable Player award and leading with 59 yards rushing on eight carries, four receptions for 38 yards and a tackle on special teams; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Bears drafted Matt in the second round of the 2008 National Football League (NFL) Draft as the 44th overall selection, the sixth running back taken that year; and

WHEREAS, Matt was one of the NFL's top dual threat running backs during his 10-year career with the Chicago Bears (2008 to 2015) and New York Jets (2016 and 2017); and

WHEREAS, Matt made two Pro Bowl appearances (2011 and 2013), was named to the 2008 NFL All-Rookie Team, named Diet Pepsi NFL Rookie of the Week in 2008, National Football Conference Player of the Week in 2010, became a five-time 1,000-yard rusher, and is one of three running backs in NFL history with 1,000 rushing yards and 100 catches in a season; and

WHEREAS, Matt was ranked 34th by the Chicago Bears on their list of the top 100 greatest Bears of all-time; he holds three franchise rookie season records: most rush attempts (316), most receptions (63), most yards from scrimmage (1,715), and shares franchise records with most receptions, postseason game, and games with at least three touchdowns in a season; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2018, at the age of 32, Matt Forte announced his retirement from the NFL after playing for 10 seasons, and on April 23, 2018, the Chicago Bears honored Matt Forte with a signed ceremonial one-day contract to retire as a member of the Bears.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Matt Forte 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 Matt Forte.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE