

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY SENATORS BERNARD AND BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Coach Paul Mainieri 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 Coach Paul Mainieri; and

WHEREAS, Paul Mainieri was born August 29, 1957, in Morgantown, West Virginia to Demie and Rosetta Mainieri; and

WHEREAS, as the son of a Baseball Hall of Fame coach, Coach Mainieri grew up around the game of baseball and had the good fortune to be exposed to several outstanding coaches in his formative years; and

WHEREAS, a four-year letter winner in college, Paul Mainieri played one season at Louisiana State University (LSU), one season at Miami-Dade College playing for his father, Coach Demie "Doc" Mainieri, and two seasons at the University of New Orleans (UNO); and

WHEREAS, as the second baseman with the UNO Privateers, he helped the team win two Sun Belt Conference titles and advance to the 1979 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament; and

WHEREAS, after completing his undergraduate degree requirements at Florida International University in 1980, Paul Mainieri played two minor league seasons with the

Chicago White Sox organization before earning a master's degree in sports administration from St. Thomas University in 1982; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mainieri's career began at his alma mater, Columbus High School in Miami, Florida, where he served as an assistant baseball and football coach for three years; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Coach Mainieri took over the St. Thomas University baseball program that had yet to post a winning season; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mainieri coached six seasons at St. Thomas University where his St. Thomas teams averaged 30 wins per season and ended four seasons ranked in the final NCAA Division II poll; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mainieri was named the 1984 Sunshine State Conference Coach of the Year and spent the final three years of his time at St. Thomas as director of athletics; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Coach Mainieri became the first civilian baseball coach at the United States Air Force Academy (Air Force) and he is the only Air Force baseball coach to post six straight 20-win seasons, averaging 26 wins in six seasons from 1989 to 1994; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mainieri guided his 1993 team to its first winning season in nearly a decade (28-22), with a school record of 21 wins at home, and the 1994 squad led the nation in hitting (.360), slugging (.623), and triples (0.76 per game); and

WHEREAS, Coach Mainieri's next coaching opportunity was at the University of Notre Dame where he spent 12 seasons as the head coach from 1995 to 2006, compiling a record of 533-213-3, and 23 post season tournament appearances including 12 conference tournaments, 9 NCAA Regional series, one NCAA Super Regional series, and an appearance in the 2002 NCAA College World Series; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mainieri was named the 2000 College Baseball Insider National Coach of the Year, the 2001 BIG EAST Coach of the Year, and the American Baseball Coaches Association Midwest Region Coach of the Year in 2001, 2002, and 2006; and

WHEREAS, it was Coach Paul Mainieri's goal to finish his collegiate baseball career in the same place it began 45 years earlier and, in 2007, he became the head baseball coach at LSU; and

WHEREAS, spanning 15 seasons at LSU, Coach Mainieri's baseball teams experienced tremendous success winning the 2009 NCAA National Championship, nine NCAA Regional championships, five NCAA Super Regional championships, four Southeastern Conference (SEC) championships, six SEC Tournament titles, and six SEC Western Division Crowns; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mainieri is a four-time National Coach of the Year (2000, 2008, 2009, 2015), a two-time SEC Coach of the Year (2009, 2015), and the 2018 United States Collegiate National Team Head Coach; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mainieri completed his career No. 1 on the all-time wins list for active NCAA coaches, No. 7 in all-time NCAA Division I Baseball wins, and one of only five Division I coaches in NCAA history to have won more than 1,500 games and a national championship; and

WHEREAS, Coach Paul Mainieri has been honored for his tremendous success throughout his career including St. Thomas University naming its baseball field the "Paul Demie Mainieri Field", and joining his father as an inductee into the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) Hall of Fame, and becoming the only father-son combination in the ABCA Hall of Fame.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Coach Paul Mainieri 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 Coach Paul Mainieri.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE