

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY SENATORS BERNARD AND BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Coach M.L. Woodruff 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 M.L. Woodruff; and

WHEREAS, Coach M.L. Woodruff started his baseball coaching career in 1981 as the baseball coach at Doyle High School in Livingston Parish; and

WHEREAS, after one season of coaching baseball, Coach Woodruff became the head baseball coach, head basketball coach, and assistant football coach at Parkview Baptist School in Baton Rouge, where he spent the remainder of his 30-year teaching and coaching career until his retirement in 2010; and

WHEREAS, aside from two years while he served as the full-time athletic director at Parkview Baptist School, Coach Woodruff was the Parkview Baptist Eagles' head baseball coach for 27 seasons; and

WHEREAS, Coach Woodruff led the Parkview Baptist baseball program to become one of the best in the state in all classes, winning 21 district titles and making 23 playoff appearances; and

WHEREAS, the Eagles won 11 state championships over a 23-year span: 1986, 1987, 1989, 1997, 2002 to 2006, 2008, and 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Eagles' baseball teams achieved a perfect record of 22-0 in all semifinal and final games played under Coach Woodruff; and

WHEREAS, Coach Woodruff has a career record of 603-163-2 for a winning percentage of 0.785 while coaching baseball in three different decades at Parkview Baptist School; and

WHEREAS, Coach Woodruff was named the Louisiana Sports Writers Association (LSWA) Coach of the Year in 1986, 1987, and 1989; and

WHEREAS, the American Baseball Congress Association named Coach Woodruff the 2007 National Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Coach M.L. Woodruff was inducted into both the Louisiana High School Sports Hall of Fame and the Louisiana Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2016; and

WHEREAS, in his retirement Coach Woodruff continues to use his talents and has taken on the position of Minister of Sports Outreach for Istrouma Baptist Church where he has grown the church's gospel-centered sports program to one of the most dynamic and comprehensive in the city of Baton Rouge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Coach M.L. Woodruff 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 M.L. Woodruff.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE