

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY SENATORS BERNARD AND BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Lori Lyons upon receiving the 2023 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and 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 Distinguished Service Award is the most prestigious honor offered to sports media in the state and recipients are carefully chosen after an extensive deliberation by a forty-member expert panel based on professional accomplishments in local, state, regional, and national arenas; and

WHEREAS, Lori Lyons, an acclaimed south Louisiana prep writer, has been selected for the 2023 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism from the Louisiana Sports Writers Association and is a member of the 2023 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class; and

WHEREAS, Lyons' interest in writing and reporting surfaced at an early age; while attending Terrebonne High School, Lyons was a staff member of her school's newspaper *The Mirror* and also became the assistant society editor of the city of Houma's newspaper *The Courier*; and

WHEREAS, following high school, Lyons attended Loyola University in New Orleans and staffed the university's newspaper *The Maroon* before graduating in 1987 with a degree in English; and

WHEREAS, she began her professional sports writing career as a sports agate clerk at *The Times-Picayune* in 1986 and twenty-five years later rose to become the president of the Louisiana Sports Writers Association (LSWA), only the second woman elected to that office, with an impressive collection of writing awards; and

WHEREAS, climbing a steep hill at a time when women sports journalists were uncommon in Louisiana, Ms. Lyons became the high school reporter for the *Times-Picayune's* River Parishes Bureau in 1991, remaining there until the newspaper's reduction in forces in 2012; and

WHEREAS, during her time with the *Times-Picayune*, Lyons was selected twice (in 1992 and 2004) by out-of-state judges as the LSWA Prep Writer of the Year and in 2008, as recipient of the LSWA's prestigious Mac Russo Award for contributions to the ideals and progress of the organization; in 2008, she was also honored by the Louisiana High School Sports Writers Association as its Prep Writer of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Lyons served as president of the LSWA from 2012 to 2014, helping to oversee the opening of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum in Natchitoches; she also created, launched, and currently maintains the LSWA's website and Facebook page; and

WHEREAS, between 2012 and 2015, Lyons continued to cover sports and other matters of interest in the River Parishes as a freelance reporter until she became the sports editor at *L'Observateur* in LaPlace in 2015, winning a Louisiana Press Association writing award as well as an award for Best Photo; and

WHEREAS, after leaving *L'Observateur* in 2017, she continued freelance reporting for multiple media outlets; and

WHEREAS, she is a longstanding member of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame selection committee and for 25 years served on the Allstate Sugar Bowl Greater New Orleans Sports Hall of Fame selection panel; and

WHEREAS, in addition to sports writing, Lyons is an occasional mom blogger and has authored *Adoption in America: The Diary of a Mom-in-Waiting*, an account of her and husband Marty Luquet's quest to adopt a baby; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lyons currently teaches high school journalism, creative writing,

and multimedia at Riverside Academy in Reserve and is the Advisor for the *Rebel Express* student news website.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Lori Lyons for receiving the 2023 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and 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 Lori Lyons.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE