

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY SENATORS FIELDS, ABRAHAM, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, DUPLESSIS, FESI, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, WHITE AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the Southern University's (SU) Women's Basketball team, called the "Lady Jaguars", on being crowned the 2023 Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Women's Basketball Team Champions and being eligible for an appearance in the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Basketball Tournament.

WHEREAS, the SU's Lady Jaguars won the 2023 SWAC tournament trophy after beating Arkansas-Pine Bluff in the championship game on March 11, 2023, at the Bartow Arena in Birmingham, Alabama, with a final score of 62-52; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Jaguars' SWAC victory earned them an automatic appearance for their first NCAA tournament since 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Jaguars' winning team consisted of one freshman: Sirviva Legions; four sophomores: Aleighyah Fontenot, Xyllize Harrison, Tionna Lidge, and Soniyah Reed; five juniors: Sky Castro, Osha Cummings, Diamond Hunter, Kyanna Morgan, and Ra'von Robertson; and seven seniors: Chloe Fleming, Genovea Johnson, McKayla Marshall, Amani McWain, Tyeniesha Metcalf, Raven White, and Taylor Williams; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Carlos Funchess, entering his fifth season as leader of the SU Women's Basketball program, has been instrumental in guiding the program to five SWAC Regular Season Championships and three SWAC Tournament Titles; and

WHEREAS, in his first year as head coach of the Lady Jaguars, Coach Funchess lead SU to the 2018-2019 SWAC Regular Season Championship, 2019 SWAC Tournament Champions, and a 2019 NCAA Tournament appearance; and

WHEREAS, Carlos Funchess stated in his assessment of the game, "The young ladies stepped up. They kept taking good shots, and I knew eventually some of them would fall. We got hot at the right time."; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Jaguars and Head Coach Carlos Funchess brought tremendous pride to the Southern State University System, Southern University, the Baton Rouge community, and the state of Louisiana by showcasing their extraordinary athletic abilities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby congratulate the Southern University's Lady Jaguars on being crowned the 2023 Southwestern Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Team Champions and being eligible for an appearance in the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women's Basketball Tournament and does hereby record for posterity this accomplishment, and extends best wishes for continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Head Coach Carlos Funchess and Southern University President-Chancellor Dennis J. Shields.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE