

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY SENATORS MORRIS, CATHEY AND JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Coach Jerry Arledge on his extraordinary career and accomplishments, and for the distinction and honor he has brought to West Monroe and to Louisiana, on the occasion of his retirement as head coach of the West Monroe Rebels football team.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride and appreciation that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes the achievements of Jerry Arledge, one of the most successful and honored coaches in the history of West Monroe football; and

WHEREAS, Coach Arledge, who has been a mainstay at West Monroe High School over the last three decades, will retire as head football coach but remain to serve as the school's athletic director; and

WHEREAS, he grew up in Oil City, Louisiana, graduated from North Caddo High School, and went on to earn a degree in Health and Physical Education from Louisiana Tech in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Jerry's love of football from an early age continued at Louisiana Tech University, where he played both linebacker and offensive guard in the days when players routinely switched between offense and defense, excelling in both positions; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to the game ultimately led him to the campus of West Monroe High School in 1992, where he served as the defensive coordinator for the 1993 state championship team and distinguished himself in that position under the late, great Don Shows for a decade, including eight state championship teams; and

WHEREAS, he was considered one of the top defensive coordinators in Louisiana as well as the nation; and

WHEREAS, Jerry was named head coach of the Rebels in 2013 upon the passing of Coach Shows; and

WHEREAS, he led the Rebels to nine district championships and two state championship game appearances, in 2016 and 2018, compiling an incredible 104-22-1 record as head coach; and

WHEREAS, during Coach Arledge's tenure, the Rebels only allowed an average of 13.2 points per game and had sixty-six shutouts; and

WHEREAS, his exemplary coaching has produced outstanding players and helped to cultivate new careers for those players in the ranks of college and professional football; and

WHEREAS, Coach Arledge orchestrated a number of improvements to the West Monroe High School facilities, including the current stadium, scoreboard, and the addition of the practice facility; and

WHEREAS, he was honored by the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame in 2021 for his contributions to amateur football, having worked with unflagging vitality out of pure love for the game and a desire to help students play it well; and

WHEREAS, Coach Arledge has made an incalculable impact on the success of West Monroe athletics, and as stated by West Monroe High School principal Shelby Ainsworth, "Coach Arledge has tirelessly coached decades of athletes, shared his coaching wisdom with countless coaches, and constructed relentless defenses that are still discussed today. We are grateful for the time and effort that he has poured into our student athletes and this program. His successful record is only one measure of his success. The true impact that Coach Arledge has had in the lives of our student athletes, as well as on the game of football, is immeasurable"; and

WHEREAS, he has proved himself to be a leader of the highest caliber, a catalyst who motivates young athletes to work together, to exceed personal expectations, to attempt seemingly unattainable goals, to demonstrate an exceptional competitive nature and esprit de corps, and to perform as a team made of many cohesive parts; and

WHEREAS, Coach Arledge shall remain an enduring figure in West Monroe sports, his community, and his state for many years to come.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Jerry Arledge upon his retirement as head coach of

the West Monroe Rebels football team, and does hereby express to him its enduring appreciation for his extraordinary leadership, and for the honor and distinction that he has brought to his team, to West Monroe, and to the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby wish Coach Arledge every success as athletic director for West Monroe High School, and in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Coach Jerry Arledge.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE