

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 155

BY SENATOR MORRIS

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Shelby Ainsworth on the occasion of his retirement as principal of West Monroe High School.

WHEREAS, Mr. Ainsworth's early educational career began as a teacher and coach at four schools; he has worked as an educator for thirty-six years and served fifteen years as assistant principal of West Monroe High School in West Monroe, Louisiana, before being appointed its principal in 2014; and

WHEREAS, after spending one year at Ouachita Parish Junior High School, six years at Ouachita Parish High School, two years at West Ouachita High School, and twenty-seven years at West Monroe High School, where he also served as assistant principal, Mr. Ainsworth demonstrated his value and earned the role of principal; and

WHEREAS, during his college days, Mr. Ainsworth initially pursued a major in agribusiness to emulate his father, but his life took a dramatic turn when he became a coach at Northeast Louisiana University, now the University of Louisiana Monroe; he became deeply inspired by the transformative impact of the coach-player bond, and shifted his focus to become an educator; and

WHEREAS, serendipitously, as Mr. Ainsworth's family contemplated ways for him to maintain his career in education while prioritizing family time, the dilemma was solved with his appointment as principal of West Monroe High School in 2014 by Ouachita Parish School Superintendent Bob Webber; and

WHEREAS, his steadfast conviction in the profound influence wielded by teachers, coaches, and instructors have on their high school students served as the driving force behind his exemplary leadership as principal for more than 2000 eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders; and

WHEREAS, Kirk Frantom, the sports medicine coordinator for the school district and athletic trainer at West Monroe High School lauded Principal Ainsworth's unwavering

leadership and friendship, skillfully fostering an environment that uplifts and empowers the faculty and staff while respecting the expertise and intellect of each individual; and

WHEREAS, Principal Ainsworth, characterized as knowledgeable, responsible, and supportive, culminates his career with exceptional achievement scores recognized by the Louisiana Department of Education, boasting a Grade Level Graduation Index score of 98.7, an ACT Index/College and Career Readiness score of 71.6, and an impressive Strength of the Diploma Index score of 103.9, attesting to his outstanding cohort graduation data certification; and

WHEREAS, the report card for West Monroe High School showcases an impressive "A" grade in overall performance, encapsulating the school's exceptional charge in effectively preparing students for advanced studies, mastery of essential content, notable growth compared to the previous year, and successful transition into the subsequent academic year; and

WHEREAS, the West Monroe High School Rebel Football Program presented Principal Ainsworth with another historic season to be remembered during their annual rivalry game against the Ouachita Parish High School Lions, adding to the pivotal moment when the West Monroe High School Rebels were recognized as one of the preeminent football teams in the state of Louisiana, boasting an illustrious history with twenty-five consecutive appearances in the Class 5A postseason play, along with eight state championships and two national titles; and

WHEREAS, with unending support, Mr. Ainsworth has nurtured student interests with a diverse twenty plus extra-curricular activities, which have all proven effectual, from the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps to the Biology Club, and from Future Farmers of America to Junior Civitans, to the National Honor Society and Science and Robotics, and they have achieved remarkable feats, notably, the Rebel Band has upheld a longstanding tradition of superior ratings at marching festivals and concerts since 1966, with prestigious invitations to perform in United States Presidential parades, the London New Year's Day Parade in Westminster, United Kingdom, and securing top ten positions in their last five appearances at the Louisiana Showcase of Marching Bands; and

WHEREAS, the West Monroe High School Rebel Choir, comprised of a talented

ensemble of one hundred twenty students, has consistently demonstrated musical prowess, boasting an uninterrupted series of superior ratings while embarking on captivating tours across Italy, Europe, and Austria, in addition to receiving a coveted invitation to perform at the illustrious Carnegie Hall in New York, New York; and

WHEREAS, Principal Ainsworth, as an esteemed servant leader, embodies the core principles of selfless service, actively believing in and exemplifying a set of behaviors and practices that prioritize the well-being and progress of others, fostering the creation and sustenance of flourishing societies, and he shares these qualities through his roles as a church deacon and life-group teacher by fortifying scriptural fellowship and growth at First West Church in West Monroe, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in honor of Mr. Ainsworth's well-earned retirement, a celebratory gathering is planned for June 7, 2023, to recognize his commitment to inclusive educational environments that nurture curiosity, empower educators and students to achieve their utmost capabilities regardless of trial or triumphs, and consistently explore innovative methods in the pursuit of learning, all to shape a prosperous and promising future for all; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shelby Ainsworth, as the epitome of servant leadership, leaves behind an exceptional legacy of educational brilliance and a heartfelt commitment to the welfare of every student, teacher, staff member, friend, and family by cultivating a culture of generosity that will remain in the corridors of West Monroe High School, resonate on every field of innovation, and echo through the platforms of motivation he ignited, inspiring everyone to joyfully pass the torch of kindness and support.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Mr. Shelby Ainsworth on the occasion of his retirement as principal of West Monroe High School and every West Monroe Rebel encouraged by his hand and heart.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Principal Shelby Ainsworth.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE