

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47

BY SENATORS SEABAUGH, BARROW, BASS, BOUDREAUX, EDMONDS, MIGUEZ
AND MILLER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Ron Higgins upon receiving the 2024 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and on being named to the 2024 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, talent, and accomplishment 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 their professional accomplishments in local, state, regional, and national arenas; and

WHEREAS, Ron Higgins is the recipient of the 2024 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and a member of the 2024 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class; and

WHEREAS, a native of Baton Rouge and a 1979 Louisiana State University graduate, Higgins has written for seven newspapers, three online websites, and a magazine in four states during a decorated sports writing career that now spans six decades; and

WHEREAS, the man nicknamed "Mad Dog" has won more than one hundred and ninety state, regional, and national writing awards including more than eighty-five first places while working for the *Shreveport Times*, *Shreveport Journal*, *Baton Rouge Advocate*, *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, *Mobile Press-Register*, *Jackson Clarion-Ledger*, *TigerDetails.com*, and *Tiger Rag Magazine/TigerRag.com*; and

WHEREAS, Higgins was honored by the National Sports Media Association in 2001 as Writer of the Year in Tennessee and Writer of the Year in Louisiana in 2015; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, while working for the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, he served as president of the Football Writers Association of America, and he remains the only Louisiana native to hold that office; and

WHEREAS, Higgins co-founded the Tennessee Sports Writers Association in the late 1980s and, on ten separate occasions, he was the Tennessee Sportswriter of the Year; in 2011, he was inducted into the Tennessee Sportswriters Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Higgins has covered three National Football League (NFL) Super Bowls, eighteen men's National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Final Fours, three women's NCAA Final Fours, three Summer Olympics, seventy NCAA football bowl games including seven national championships, one National Basketball Association (NBA) Finals, twelve NBA playoff series, three NBA All-Star games, twenty Professional Golf Association (PGA) tour events, a world heavyweight boxing championship fight (Tyson versus Lewis), as well as several seasons of Class AA Minor League Baseball, the Arena Football League, and four minor league pro basketball franchises; and

WHEREAS, Ron Higgins is a longtime Heisman Trophy voter; a frequent guest on sports radio talk shows and occasional television shows from Hawaii to New York; and he has authored six books.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Ron Higgins upon receiving the 2024 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and on being named to the 2024 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Ron Higgins.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES