

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 82

BY SENATOR COUSSAN

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Designates May 8, 2024, as Pickleball Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

A RESOLUTION

To designate May 8, 2024, as Pickleball Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

WHEREAS, in 1965, Joel Pritchard, a congressman representing the state of Washington, and a friend Bill Bell, played the first pickleball match on an old badminton court with ping-pong paddles and a perforated plastic ball; and

WHEREAS, the following weekend, they introduced another friend, Barney McCallum, to the game they invented and together the three men created rules, relying heavily on badminton, keeping in mind the original purpose, which was to provide a fun game that the whole family could play together; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, a corporation was formed to protect the creation of this new sport; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, the United States Amateur Pickleball Association (USAPA) was organized to perpetuate the growth and advancement of pickleball on a national level, with the first rulebook being published in March of that year; and

WHEREAS, after years of steady increase in participation, pickleball has seen a rise in popularity in recent years because of its easy learning curve and use of pre-existing tennis infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the estimated number of pickleball players has increased to thirteen

1 million six hundred thousand in the United States as of 2023, according to a 2024 Sports &  
2 Fitness Industry Association report; and

3 WHEREAS, Louisiana, particularly the Lafayette region, is part of the pickleball  
4 craze sweeping the country; and

5 WHEREAS, in September, 2023, plans were unveiled for a one hundred twenty  
6 thousand square-foot indoor sports complex to be built by Lafayette Consolidated  
7 Government at the site of Beaulieu Park and Comeaux Recreation Center, the only facility  
8 of its kind between Jacksonville, Florida, and Houston, Texas, along the Interstate 10  
9 corridor; and

10 WHEREAS, the sports complex will have about three times the floor space of the  
11 Cajundome, offering eight basketball courts and sixteen volleyball courts, with the versatility  
12 to accommodate other indoor sports like pickleball and wrestling; and

13 WHEREAS, other Lafayette-area parks have joined the pickleball sensation by  
14 adding courts, including the Thomas Park Recreational Center, the George Dupuis  
15 Recreational Center, and Youngsville Sports Complex, among others; and

16 WHEREAS, the growth of pickleball's popularity has encouraged entrepreneurs from  
17 Lafayette, like Bruce Smith and his company, Battle Cry Sports, to design, market, and sell  
18 a line of specialized pickleball paddles for competitive and skilled play; and

19 WHEREAS, Lafayette locals Jenny Thibodeaux, Jacques Poirrier, Paul Azar III,  
20 Benjamin Roth, and Stephen Roma were inspired to establish the Lafayette Pickleball Club,  
21 which recently opened a facility with six indoor climate-controlled courts and a membership  
22 list growing every day; and

23 WHEREAS, Louisiana has truly embraced the founders' original purpose of  
24 pickleball to provide a fun game that the whole family can participate in and enjoy.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
26 does hereby designate May 8, 2024, as Pickleball Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Bruce  
28 Smith, Jenny Thibodeaux, Jacques Poirrier, Paul Azar III, Benjamin Roth, and Stephen  
29 Roma.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

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