

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 65

BY REPRESENTATIVE LACOMBE

CONDOLENCES: Expresses the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of former Northwestern State University football coach Sam Goodwin

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of former
3 Northwestern State University football coach Sam Goodwin.

4 WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of
5 Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing, on March 20,
6 2026, of former Northwestern State University football coach Sam Goodwin; and

7 WHEREAS, Sam Goodwin was a native of Pineville, Louisiana, and an alumnus of
8 Pineville High School; he was a standout two-way football player who helped lead Pineville
9 to the Class 2A state championship during his senior year; and

10 WHEREAS, Coach Goodwin played collegiate football and threw the discus at
11 Henderson State University; in 1965, he was an NAIA All-American selection and served
12 as the captain of the football team; outside of football, he was a three-time conference discus
13 champion and set the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference record in the event; and

14 WHEREAS, Coach Goodwin enjoyed a stellar nine-season coaching run at Parkview
15 High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he won seventy-two percent of his games and
16 led the team to five state championships; and

17 WHEREAS, following his outstanding high school coaching career, Coach Goodwin
18 spent two seasons as an assistant on Lou Holtz's coaching staff at the University of Arkansas
19 and then moved on to serve for two seasons as head coach of Southern Arkansas University;
20 and

1 WHEREAS, after his two-year head coaching tenure at Southern Arkansas, he was
2 named head coach at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

3 WHEREAS, Coach Goodwin was the architect of Northwestern State University's
4 golden-era of football; he won a school-record one hundred two games over seventeen
5 seasons at the helm of the Demons football program, developed the team into a perennial
6 Southland Conference Championship contender, and set the Southland Conference wins
7 record; and

8 WHEREAS, Coach Goodwin led the Demons to four conference championships,
9 including the 1984 Gulf Star title and the 1988, 1997, and 1998 Southland Conference titles;
10 he was named Southland Conference Coach of the Year on two occasions; and

11 WHEREAS, Coach Goodwin coached twenty-two All-Americans, two Academic
12 All-Americans, a National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete, forty-two All-Southland
13 Conference selections, and thirty-eight future NFL players; and

14 WHEREAS, after retiring from his coaching role at Northwestern State in 2000,
15 Coach Goodwin served as the athletic director of Henderson State University; and

16 WHEREAS, Coach Goodwin was inducted into the N-Club Hall of Fame,
17 Northwestern State's highest honor for student-athletes and athletic staff, in 1999, and he is
18 a member of the Southland Conference Hall of Honor; and

19 WHEREAS, Coach Goodwin was named to the AIC All-Decade Team chosen by
20 *Dave Campbell's Arkansas Football* magazine, and he was enshrined in the Arkansas Sports
21 Hall of Fame in 2007 for both his playing career and success at the helm of Parkview; and

22 WHEREAS, Coach Sam Goodwin was an outstanding leader who established
23 himself as a Louisiana and Arkansas football legend, and while he will be deeply missed,
24 his coaching and playing legacy shall live in perpetuity in the hearts and minds of those who
25 were privileged to have known him.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
27 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of former
28 Northwestern State University football coach Sam Goodwin and does hereby extend sincere
29 wishes that his family, friends, former players, and colleagues find comfort in their shared
30 memories of his inspiring life.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 65 Original

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LaCombe

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