

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 191

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Shaquille O'Neal upon his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Shaquille O'Neal, one of the greatest basketball players of all time, upon the  
3 occasion of his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

4 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame was established in 1958 and was  
5 intended, in the words of Otis Harris, sports editor of the *Shreveport Journal*, to be "the  
6 Louisiana Hall of Fame – a hall of fame for the state's greatest athletes, men or women,  
7 amateur or professional, living or dead"; and

8 WHEREAS, though the Hall of Fame was begun over fifty years ago, it is only this  
9 year that it has a permanent and appropriate home to recognize Louisiana's greatest sports  
10 heroes, for on Friday, June 28, 2013, the grand opening will be held for the stunning twenty-  
11 three million dollar Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History  
12 Museum in the National Historic District of Natchitoches; and

13 WHEREAS, among the remarkable class of honorees to be inducted into the  
14 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame on Saturday, June 29, 2013, is one of the greatest athletes in  
15 the state's history, Shaquille O'Neal, who had record-setting basketball careers at LSU and  
16 in the NBA; and

17 WHEREAS, Shaquille O'Neal, born on March 6, 1972, in Newark, New Jersey, was  
18 a six-foot eight-inch thirteen-year-old when he met LSU coach Dale Brown at an army base  
19 in Germany where his father was stationed, and after becoming a superstar at Cole High  
20 School in San Antonio, Texas, and the nation's top blue-chip prospect, he played for three  
21 seasons under Coach Brown at LSU and had a spectacular college basketball career, being

1 named national Player of the Year in 1991, Southeastern Conference Player of the Year in  
2 both 1991 and 1992, SEC Player of the Year in 1991-1992, and World Amateur Athlete of  
3 the Year in 1991; and

4 WHEREAS, Shaq, as he is universally known, scored 1,941 points in three seasons,  
5 while snaring 1,217 rebounds, shooting sixty-one percent from the field, and earning six  
6 career triple doubles; he became the first player to lead the SEC in scoring, rebounding, field  
7 goal percentage, and blocked shots in a season, and he was named to the LSU All-Century  
8 Team in 2009, after his No. 33 LSU jersey was retired in 2000; and

9 WHEREAS, "Superman" was a member of the USA's gold medal 1996 Olympic  
10 basketball team and went on to become one of the most dominant players in the history of  
11 the NBA, after being the No. 1 draft pick of the Orlando Magic; he was literally a pivotal  
12 figure on the Los Angeles Lakers' NBA championship teams in 2000, 2001, and 2002 and  
13 the Miami Heat's 2006 championship team; he was named 1992-1993 NBA Rookie of the  
14 Year, was the 1999-2000 NBA Most Valuable Player, and won three NBA MVP Finals  
15 honors; and

16 WHEREAS, "the Big Aristotle" was selected to the NBA All-Star Game fifteen times  
17 and was named MVP of the All-Star Game three times; he made the All-NBA Team fourteen  
18 times and the NBA All-Defensive Team three times; and he is only one of three players in  
19 NBA history to win All-Star Game MVP, NBA MVP, and NBA Finals MVP in the same  
20 year; and

21 WHEREAS, Shaq became one of sport's most magnetic and charming personalities,  
22 attaining a multifaceted, unique identity which has made him a superstar among the world's  
23 sports and entertainment figures, noted for his humor and his business acumen, and Dr.  
24 O'Neal has never forgotten his father's emphasis on education, earning his degree from LSU  
25 in 2000, and an MBA and a Ph.D. in Education from Barry University in Florida, nor has  
26 he forgotten his days at LSU, for he returns often and has been generous in support of his  
27 alma mater; and

28 WHEREAS, whether he is known as Shaq, Superman, The Big Aristotle, Shaq-Fu,  
29 The Big Shamrock, The Big Cactus, The Diesel, or even The Big AARP, Shaquille O'Neal  
30 is truly one of Louisiana's greatest athletes, and the House of Representatives wishes to

1 recognize him for his peerless athletic career and for his well-deserved induction into the  
2 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

3           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
4 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Shaquille O'Neal, a great LSU Tiger and one  
5 of the most dominant players in NBA history, upon the occasion of his induction into the  
6 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

7           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
8 to Shaquille O'Neal.

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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)]

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Cox

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