

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 191

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Shaquille O'Neal, born on March 6, 1972, in Newark, New Jersey, was a six-foot eight-inch thirteen-year-old when he met LSU coach Dale Brown at an army base in Germany where his father was stationed, and after becoming a superstar at Cole High School in San Antonio, Texas, and the nation's top blue-chip prospect, he played for three seasons under Coach Brown at LSU and had a spectacular college basketball career, being named national Player of the Year in 1991, Southeastern Conference Player of the Year in both 1991 and 1992, SEC Player of the Year in 1991-1992, and World Amateur Athlete of the Year in 1991; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, whether he is known as Shaq, Superman, The Big Aristotle, Shaq-Fu, The Big Shamrock, The Big Cactus, The Diesel, or even The Big AARP, Shaquille O'Neal is truly one of Louisiana's greatest athletes, and the House of Representatives wishes to recognize him for his peerless athletic career and for his well-deserved induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Shaquille O'Neal, a great LSU Tiger and one

of the most dominant players in NBA history, upon the occasion of his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

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

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES