

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 202

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Ervin Johnson, legendary basketball player, 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 basketball players the state of Louisiana has ever produced, a man who truly meets the standard for the Hall of Fame advanced in 1950 that still abides today, for Ervin Johnson is surely one of the state's greatest athletes; and

WHEREAS, Ervin Johnson, a Jonesville native, thrilled all of Louisiana with his impressive basketball prowess, first at the collegiate level and later as a member of the National Basketball Association (NBA); and

WHEREAS, Ervin Johnson never played high school basketball and was bagging groceries in Baton Rouge when he was brought to the attention of then University of New Orleans (UNO) coach Tim Floyd, at which point he quickly established himself as a team leader; and

WHEREAS, Ervin Johnson played from 1990 to 1993 at UNO, and was the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year in 1993 when *Basketball Times* made him a second-team All-American; and

WHEREAS, Ervin Johnson helped lead UNO to two National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tournaments and one National Invitation Tournament (NIT) during his time there, and he finished as the second-leading scorer in UNO history with 1,608 points scored, and was UNO's all-time leader in rebounds (1,287), blocked shots (294), field goal percentage (.590), and double-doubles (55); and

WHEREAS, Ervin Johnson averaged 13.1 points and 10.5 rebounds for his college career, and was the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-Star game in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Ervin Johnson's jersey was retired in 1997 and in 2005 he was named to the Sun Belt Conference All-Time team; and

WHEREAS, Ervin Johnson then moved on to the NBA, where he was a first-round draft pick by Seattle in 1993, and later spent time with Denver, Milwaukee, and Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Ervin Johnson played thirteen seasons in the NBA, where he averaged 4.1 points, 6.1 rebounds, and 1.3 blocks per game over his 845-game career; and

WHEREAS, Ervin Johnson's best seasons came in 1996-97 with Denver when he averaged 7.1 points and 11.1 rebounds, and 1997-98 with Milwaukee when he averaged 8.0 points and 8.5 rebounds in starting 163 of a possible 164 games those two years; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives wishes to recognize Ervin Johnson for his peerless athletic career and for his well-deserved induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, for he is truly one of Louisiana's greatest athletes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Ervin Johnson, legendary basketball player, 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 Ervin Johnson.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES