SLS 14RS-4491 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2014

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 139

BY SENATOR LONG AND REPRESENTATIVES BROWN AND COX

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Wright Waters on receiving the 2014 Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award and for being named to the 2014 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To commend Wright Waters on receiving the 2014 Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership
3	Award and for being named to the 2014 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction
4	Class.
5	WHEREAS, the Dave Dixon Award is presented annually by the Louisiana Sports
6	Writers Association's thirty-member Hall of Fame selection committee to an individual who
7	has played a decisive role as a sports leader or administrator benefitting Louisiana or
8	bringing credit to Louisiana on the national or international level; and
9	WHEREAS, with a career expanding forty years in collegiate athletics, Wright
10	Waters has been a key figure in NCAA Division I sports, most notably as the commissioner
11	of the Sun Belt Conference and as the executive director of the Football Bowl Association;
12	and
13	WHEREAS, in the 1980's and before moving to the conference level, Mr. Waters
14	held various administrative positions in the athletic departments of several universities in the
15	south, including associate athletics director at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and
16	senior associate and interim athletics director at Tulane University; and
17	WHEREAS, in 1991, Wright Waters left Tulane University to become commissioner
18	of the Southern Conference and under his leadership, the Southern Conference expanded to

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1	twelve members, added three women's sports and one men's sport and posted record revenue
2	from their basketball tournament; and
3	WHEREAS, in 1998, Mr. Waters left the Southern Conference to take over as only
4	the fourth commissioner of the New Orleans-based Sun Belt Conference, and in 2001, when
5	the Sun Belt added football, he became one of only two commissioners in modern-day
6	NCAA history to oversee the addition of football as a league sport; and
7	WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Sun Belt Conference, the league added five
8	members and increased its sports sponsorship by five, became a Bowl Championship Series
9	conference, gained a permanent seat on the NCAA Board of Directors and negotiated the
10	most expansive television agreement in league history; and
11	WHEREAS, the greatest strides during his tenure came in football, where Mr. Waters
12	was integral in convincing many league schools of the benefits of moving to Division I and
13	forming a football league and also was a guiding force behind founding the New Orleans
14	Bowl which is now a fixture in the New Orleans December sports calendar; and
15	WHEREAS, demonstrating his commitment to his adopted Louisiana home, Mr.
16	Waters was the commanding influence behind the league maintaining its headquarters in
17	New Orleans following the ravages of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, when many of his league
18	members were advocating to relocate; and
19	WHEREAS, in 2012, Mr. Waters retired as commissioner of the Sun Belt Conference
20	and became the first executive director of the Football Bowl Association, a nonprofit
21	association representing postseason college football bowl games that helps the bowls to
22	understand their changing role in the college football landscape with the advent of the
23	playoff era; and
24	WHEREAS, throughout his forty-year career as an administrator in collegiate
25	athletics, Mr. Waters has proven himself time and time again to be a committed and
26	visionary leader, always using his skills and talents to successfully grow and transition the
27	institution or organization employing him to the next level or the next phase.
28	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
29	commend Wright Waters on receiving the 2014 Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership

Award and for being named to the 2014 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to

Wright Waters.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

DIGEST

Long SCR No. 139

Commends Wright Waters on receiving the 2014 Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award and for being named to the 2014 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class.