

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

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
2 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.