

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 185

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Richard "Moon" Ducote, football legend, 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 began over fifty years ago, in 2013 the Hall of Fame celebrated the grand opening of its permanent and appropriate home for the recognition of Louisiana's greatest sports heroes at the 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 21, 2014, is legendary football player, coach, and official, Richard "Moon" Ducote; and

WHEREAS, Richard "Moon" Ducote, a native of Cottonport, Louisiana, was born August 28, 1897, and attended Auburn University from 1915 through 1917 where he played on the football team as a fullback, halfback, and end, and was twice named to the All-Southern Conference team; and

WHEREAS, Ducote was also known for his ability as a kicker, helping to lead his Auburn team to victory by making game-winning field goals of forty-eight and fifty-one yards to beat Georgia and Vanderbilt; and

WHEREAS, in 1918, Ducote played for the Great Lakes Cleveland Naval Reserves, a military team composed of former college stars from around the country, and in a game against the University of Pittsburg, coached by legendary Pop Warner, Ducote scored all of the ten points needed to beat Pitt, handing them their only defeat in three seasons; and

WHEREAS, a Cleveland sports writer who covered the game stated that Ducote "simply battered the life out of the Pitt defense and . . . must be rated as one of the greatest backs of all time"; and

WHEREAS, from legendary player to legendary coach, in 1918, Ducote began his coaching career serving as either an assistant or head coach for a variety of sports, including football, baseball, and basketball, at Louisiana State University, Loyola University of New Orleans, and Spring Hill College; and

WHEREAS, from 1929 through 1934, Ducote worked as a football official in the Southern Conference and Southeastern Conference, as a linesman, umpire, and referee; and

WHEREAS, at the end of the 1934-1935 season, Ducote was a member of the officiating crew for the 1935 Rose Bowl game on New Year's Day of 1935 which pitted Alabama against Stanford; and

WHEREAS, in March of 1935, Loyola University of New Orleans rehired Ducote as a football and basketball coach, and in 1936, Ducote served as Loyola's athletic director, a role he held from August 1936 until his death in 1937; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana wishes to recognize the legendary Richard "Moon" Ducote for his extraordinary athletic and coaching career and for his well-deserved induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, for he is truly a Louisiana football icon.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Richard "Moon" Ducote 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 family of Richard "Moon" Ducote.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES