

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 188

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Beryl Shipley, legendary basketball coach, posthumously upon the occasion of his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it was in 1957 when Beryl Shipley arrived as head basketball coach at what was then Southwestern Louisiana Institute (SLI), later known as the University of Southwestern Louisiana, and now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, Coach Shipley bravely broke racial barriers and made history by recruiting African American players to play basketball at SLI at a time when no African American athletes were participating in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) sports in any Deep South states; and

WHEREAS, from 1957 until 1973, Coach Shipley compiled a very impressive record of two hundred ninety-six wins and one hundred twenty-nine losses, and he remains the winningest coach in school history; and

WHEREAS, Coach Shipley had fifteen winning seasons in his sixteen-year tenure, and he coached three All-Americans; he also served with distinction as athletic director from 1958 until 1960; and

WHEREAS, one of Coach Shipley's teams reached the final four in the NCAA College Division National Tournament in Evansville, Indiana; in their first two years in the NCAA Division I, his teams were nationally ranked in the top ten and reached the second round of postseason tournament play; and in two years in the Southland Conference, the team never lost a game; and

WHEREAS, Coach Shipley has received numerous honors and awards for his exemplary achievements in coaching, including being named Gulf States Conference Coach of the Year four times and Southland Conference Coach of the Year twice, and he was most deservingly inducted into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1986; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as head coach Shipley demonstrated the rigorous leadership and encouragement essential for the production of winners and team players both on and off the court, motivating his athletes toward success with the unique relationship he had with each player, his seemingly endless faith in their abilities, and his inspiring passion for the game they all loved; and

WHEREAS, Beryl Shipley will forever be remembered for the tremendous pride, honor, and joy he has brought to his fellow Ragin' Cajuns and to the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby record and recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Beryl Shipley, legendary basketball coach, and hereby commends Coach Shipley posthumously 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 the family of Beryl Shipley.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES