

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY SENATOR GARY SMITH AND REPRESENTATIVE GREGORY MILLER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Cara Ursin, a senior at Destrehan High School, on receipt of the Louisiana Gatorade Player of the Year for Girls Basketball award for the third consecutive year.

WHEREAS, Cara Ursin is an athletic phenomenon, a point guard with strength, speed, and stamina that rivals the abilities of her male counterparts and a vertical leap that reaches the rim of the basket; and

WHEREAS, Cara is the "total package"; along with her superior athleticism, Cara is an excellent student who earned a 4.0 grade point average, tutors student-athletes in their studies, and sings in the youth choir at her church; and

WHEREAS, Cara was honored as the Louisiana Gatorade High School Player of the Year for Girls Basketball for three consecutive years, 2015-2017; the only player, male or female, to do so in any sport; and

WHEREAS, the Gatorade State Player of the Year award was established in 1985 to recognize the most outstanding high school athletes in the nation for their athletic excellence, academic achievement, and exemplary character; and

WHEREAS, during her high school career, Cara was also named the Most Outstanding Player of the 2017 LHSAA state tournament and, as a fearless competitor, she contributed to the championship win of the Destrehan High School LadyCats over the Barbe High School Lady Buccaneers by scoring twenty-seven points with eleven rebounds and six assists; and

WHEREAS, she also holds numerous honors that include being named the Greater New Orleans Amateur Athlete of the Month, selected Miss Basketball by the Farm Bureau/Louisiana Sports Writers Association, named to the All-Metro Team, and ranked No. 1 on the Super 10 team by the New Orleans Advocate newspaper; and

WHEREAS, Cara is ranked by MaxPreps as No. 21 in the nation, named to the MaxPreps Girls Basketball All-American Team, and considered one of the eight exceptional players across the country for the National Player of the Year competition; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of Head Coach Angi Butler and assistant coaches Megan Stock and Joanna Welch, Cara and her teammates have trained with passion and a stalwart dedication to the goal of "always do your very best"; and

WHEREAS, after four consecutive district championships and a 120-8 win-loss record, the Destrehan High School LadyCats completed a sensational "perfect" season of 35-0, then advanced through the playoffs to win the 2017 Allstate Sugar Bowl/LHSAA Class 5A girls basketball championship, the first ever state title for female athletics in DHS history; and

WHEREAS, during the tournament on March 4, 2017, number three seed Destrehan LadyCats defeated number one seed Barbe High School Lady Buccaneers of Lake Charles by a score of 62-57; and

WHEREAS, Cara "Moon" Ursin was captain of this outstanding squad that included Kyrsten "Kiki" Kenner, Kali Mealey, Daja Sanchez, Brandi Mason, Jerlicia "Lele" Morris, Korriana Reynaud, Kayla Davis, Sierra Samuels, Darielle Richard, Gia Zeringue, Aja Graham, Britney Lipps, Destiny Dupre, and Marshay Stevenson; and

WHEREAS, Cara is among the six seniors who played sports together for nearly a decade in Amateur Athletic Union programs and in middle school; they possessed an exceptional synergy for the game and a teamwork ethic that has resulted in a four-year winning streak in district competition; and

WHEREAS, maintaining a perfect season record is quite a rare achievement; the LadyCats finished the 2016-2017 season ranked No. 16 in the nation and DHS is one of only ten high school girls basketball programs to remain unbeaten for the season; and

WHEREAS, Cara and her teammates have earned these well-deserved accolades that detail their extraordinary athletic ability, uncommon work ethic, and unselfish dedication to each other, particularly at the most demanding level of state competition; and

WHEREAS, a hot prospect in collegiate recruiting, Cara has committed to Head Coach Kim Mulkey and the Baylor University Lady Bears for the fall season of 2017; and

WHEREAS, Cara Ursin displays all the finest characteristics and promise of a future star in the firmament of professional women's basketball.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Cara Ursin on winning the Louisiana Gatorade Player of the Year for Girls Basketball award on three separate occasions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Miss Cara Ursin, Angi Butler, head coach, and Stephen Weber, principal of Destrehan High School.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES