

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY SENATOR BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To commend the 2016-2017 University of New Orleans Privateers Men's Basketball team as the 2016-2017 Southland Conference Champions; to commend Head Coach Mark Slessinger as the 2016-2017 Southland Coach of the Year and 2016-2017 Louisiana Coach of the Year; and to commend Erik Thomas as the 2016-2017 Southland Conference Player of the Year and 2016-2017 Louisiana Player of the Year.

WHEREAS, the 2016-2017 University of New Orleans Privateers Men's Basketball team finished the season with a 20-12 overall record, and a 13-5 league record to win the Southland Conference regular season title – the most wins by the Privateers in over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the 2016-2017 University of New Orleans Privateers Men's Basketball team seized the title of 2016-2017 Southland Conference Champions, earning the top seed in the Southland Conference tournament; and

WHEREAS, Mark Slessinger, UNO Privateers Head Basketball Coach, through his dedication, commitment to excellence and perseverance, raised the Privateers overall wins from 10-18 games, making them the most improved team among the nation's 351 Division I programs; and

WHEREAS, Coach Slessinger, who led the Privateers to the first Division I winning season in more than ten years as well as a Southland Conference victory, was named 2016-2017 Southland Coach of the Year by the Southland Conference and Louisiana's Coach of the Year by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association; and

WHEREAS, during the 2016-2017 season, senior forward Erik Thomas earned 616 points, 19.3 points per game, 250 rebounds, 78 rebounds per game, 223 field goals, and 166 free throws; and

WHEREAS, Thomas averaged double digits for the Privateers in all 32 season games; earning him honorable-mention Associated Press All-American, first-team National Association of Basketball Coaches All-Region 23, third-team College Sports Madness All-Mid Major, first-team All-Southland Conference and Southland Conference Most Valuable Player; and

WHEREAS, he was named 2016-2017 Player of the Year by the Southland Conference and 2016-2017 Louisiana Player of the Year by the Louisiana Sportswriters Association.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the 2016-2017 UNO Privateers Men's Basketball team upon receipt of the 2017 Southland Conference title, Head Coach Mark Slessinger on his selection as 2016-2017 Southland Conference Coach of the Year and 2016-2017 Louisiana Coach of the Year; and forward Erik Thomas on his selection as the 2016-2017 Southland Conference Player of the Year and 2016-2017 Louisiana Player of the Year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 2016-2017 UNO Privateers Men's Basketball team and UNO Men's Basketball Head Coach Mark Slessinger.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE