

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 200

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Coach John Thompson, renowned football coach, teacher, and mentor and to celebrate his sports legacy that has spanned the greater portion of five decades.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of such a distinguished gentleman as John Thompson, a vibrant man who touched the lives of others in such a positive and meaningful manner; and

WHEREAS, Coach Thompson was not only a football coach who honed the skills of young athletes, but he was also mentor, father figure, and advisor to many young men who struggled to find success in the world of high school, collegiate, and professional sports; and

WHEREAS, John Thompson was born on January 5, 1928, in Brusly, Louisiana, to parents Levi and Gertrude Thompson, and he grew up as the All-American boy in Waterproof; and

WHEREAS, he excelled as a stellar student athlete at Waterproof High School; he graduated valedictorian of his class and received the American Legion Award; the football team won the state championship the year he played on the team; and

WHEREAS, John attended Northwestern State University in Natchitoches on an athletic scholarship and lettered in football all four years; after graduation, he coached at the college for one year; and

WHEREAS, John Thompson then served his country honorably in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict, and his duty station was in Germany; and

WHEREAS, John had a successful and rewarding career as a coach and mathematics teacher at several high schools in the cities of Lake Charles, Winnsboro, Bossier City, and at Loyola College Prep in Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, in 1966, while coaching at Mansfield High School, the mayor honored

Coach Thompson with a declaration of "John Thompson Day"; and

WHEREAS, Coach Thompson was honored to serve as a member of the board of directors of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, and, in 2016, he was inducted into the Bossier High School Alumni Association Sport and Spirit Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, John Thompson worked tirelessly for the benefit of others, devoted his life to unselfish service to God, and lived as a true steward of Christian faith and fellowship; and

WHEREAS, John was active in the Catholic Church, attending daily Mass, teaching Catechism, delivering communion as a Lay Eucharistic Minister for church parishioners and hospital patients and he served as a lector and was awarded the Diocesan Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, John was married to his wife, Josie, for sixty years, and their union was blessed with four children, Lana Wann, Veronica Loper, Allison Hammond, and John Thompson; beloved grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family, and many friends; and

WHEREAS, John Thompson possessed those outstanding characteristics of leadership and trust that brought out the very best performance in athletes; he encouraged young men, both in the game and beyond it, to put forth their very best efforts, to be strong and brave in the face of formidable opposition, and to work diligently toward achievement of their lifelong goals; and

WHEREAS, it is the legacy of Coach John Thompson and his passion for the game that shall be revisited from time to time by all who knew him; he took good athletes and forged them into great players, great coaches, and great individuals.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences upon the passing of Coach John Thompson at the age of eighty-nine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby acknowledge that his life was well spent in benevolent service to others as a good Christian, teacher, mentor, and football coach, and at his passing, does hereby pay tribute to the remarkable legacy that shall live on in the hearts of those he touched in life.

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ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his widow, Josie Thompson.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE