

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 137

BY SENATOR HEWITT

A RESOLUTION

To commend Charlie "Coach" Bowman for his service with the St. Tammany Parish School Board and to the community.

WHEREAS, Charlie Bowman attended Peabody High School in Alexandria, Louisiana, graduating in 1969 and was captain of the boys basketball and track teams; he attended Grambling State University from 1969 to 1973, graduated with honors, and received a bachelor of art's degree in education and is twelve hours shy of receiving his master's degree; and

WHEREAS, he is a retired art teacher, coach, and athletic director of thirty-nine years of service at Pearl River High School in St. Tammany Parish; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Bowman is a member, trustee, and chairman of the Deacon Ministry of Greater North Shore Full Gospel Baptist Church under the leadership of Bishop Robert J. Taylor, and the former state director of deacons for the Full Gospel Fellowship of Louisiana; in 2017 he received the Ministerial Alliance of Greater St. Tammany Outstanding Community and Service Award, and he received the Greater North Shore Full Gospel Baptist Church's 1st Pacesetter for the Millennium Man of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Charlie "Coach" Bowman is the founder and director of the Greater North Shore's Summer Rest Camp (an educational camp for children); for fifteen years, he organized and was the director of The Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Pearl River High School; he created and is the overseer of Greater North Shore's Community Outreach Program, "Fitness and Movement", and Open Court Basketball; and he piloted and contributed to establishing The Fine Art Survey Program in St. Tammany Parish Schools and the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, for 1968 to 1978, he received the award for Pearl River High School's "Teacher of the Decade"; in 1978, 1983, 1996, and 2006 he was Pearl River High School's,

"Teacher of the Year"; in 1986 and 1989, he was runner up as "Teacher of the Year"; in 1996, he was named "St. Tammany Elf Teacher of the Year"; and, in 2006, he was the "VFW Teacher of the Year" for St. Tammany Parish and a region and state finalist; and

WHEREAS, from 1976 to 2011, Coach served the longest and was only the second African-American high school athletic director in St. Tammany Parish since integration; he also had the longest tenure (thirty-five years) as an African-American head coach in St. Tammany Parish since integration; during his eleven years (1999-2012) at Pearl River High School, he was the head coach of track and field, cross country, basketball, and tennis; and 1982, 1995, 2001, and 2002, he was the "District Coach of the Year" in track and cross country and the cross country team was state runner up in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Charlie "Coach" Bowman has been married to Mary Graham Bowman for thirty-one years, he is the father and stepfather to five children: Christy, Chad, Greg, Lonnie, and Michell, and is the proud grandfather and great-grandfather of fourteen; and

WHEREAS, Charlie "Coach" Bowman was and is an inspiration to so many children and generations; and

WHEREAS, during a full and productive lifetime, he has demonstrated, in countless ways, his dedication to the welfare of others and has earned the respect and affection of all who know him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Charlie "Coach" Bowman for his service with the St. Tammany Parish School Board and to the community, does hereby record his outstanding contribution of time and talent and for his hard work, dedication, and continuous commitment, and does hereby extend best wishes for success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Charlie "Coach" Bowman.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE