

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 215

BY SENATOR JOHN SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To commend the DeRidder High School girls' softball team on winning the 2018 Louisiana High School Athletic Association Division 4A state championship.

WHEREAS, the power pitching of DeRidder senior Lauren Parson and the defense and speed on the bases for the DeRidder Lady Dragons carried them to the 2018 State Softball Title in Division 4A with a 5-1 victory over Morgan City at Frasch Park in Sulphur on April 28th; and

WHEREAS, the LSU-Eunice bound Parson struck out 22 batters in three games as DeRidder beat Belle Chasse in the Quarter-Finals 3-0 then hit North DeSoto for four runs in extra innings to win 8-4 in the semi-finals before Parson struck out 13 in the 5-1 title game win over Morgan City and was named MVP of the tournament in Class 4A; and

WHEREAS, the title is the first state championship for DeRidder as the school lost in the semifinals last season and last reached the final in 1983; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Dragons never trailed in the title contest, taking a 1-0 lead in the first inning when leadoff hitter Kailey Lafrere walked, stole second and third, then scored on a wild pitch; Laela Quinones' bunt single drove in Brianna LeJeune and Brooklyn Gren in the fourth, Quinones later scoring on an error, and Lafrere blasted a homer to center in the seventh; and

WHEREAS, the scores were more than enough support for Parson, who allowed a harmless run in the sixth and held Morgan City to three hits; and

WHEREAS, all of the athletes including Hadley Allen, Rayann Bomboy, Chloe Bruce, Brianna Burnette, Taylor Cobb, Briona Crockett, Kynadee Delome, Brooklyn Green, Kyleigh Hoskey, Jocelyn Irvine, Aubrey Joslin, Matilyn Kern, Kailey LeFrere, Brianna LeJeune, Carmen Major, Lauren Parson, Laela Quinones, Bailey Rector, Kaiya Scott, Leah Spears, and Khalia Thompkins performed at the highest level of excellence throughout the 2018 season for DeRidder High School, and these talented Lady Dragons deserve recognition for their individual contributions posting a 26-10 season record; and

WHEREAS, without the unwavering dedication, support, and guidance of Head Coach Todd Schulz, assistant coaches CT Keily and Brian Parson, managers Abbie Reviel and Julianna Bowman, and the passion of the Lady Dragon supporters, the heights of success reached in the 2018 season would not have been possible; and

WHEREAS, the team's outstanding 2018 run by the Lady Dragons culminated in the phenomenal achievement of its first state championship and all alumni and fans recognize the tremendous honor, pride, and joy the team brings to DeRidder High School students, faculty, staff, parents, and supporters.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the DeRidder High School girls' softball team on winning the 2018 Louisiana High School Athletic Association Division 4A state championship; does hereby record for posterity the team's exceptional playoff run and title triumph in the great sport of softball; and does hereby extend best wishes to the players, coaches, and everyone involved with this fine athletic program as they celebrate their championship season and prepare for continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Head Coach Todd Schulz.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE