

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 98

BY SENATOR ALARIO

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the gymnasts, coaches, and staff of the Louisiana State University Women's Gymnastics team on a remarkable 2019 season.

WHEREAS, the LSU gymnastics team concluded the 2019 season as the NCAA National Runner-Up to match the highest finish in school history after scoring a 197.825 in the first-ever Four on the Floor competition; and

WHEREAS, the LSU gymnastics team advanced to the NCAA Gymnastics Championships for the thirtieth time after winning the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional with a team score of 197.500, winning their 12th NCAA Regional in program history and the seventh in a row; and

WHEREAS, LSU senior Sarah Finnegan and junior Kennedy Edney captured the program's 14th and 15th individual championships with wins on bars and vault at the NCAA Gymnastics Championships in the NCAA Semifinal I, as Finnegan became a two-time NCAA champion after winning the NCAA bars championship in 2017 when she became the first LSU gymnast to win a title in the event, and Edney became a two-time NCAA champion after earning a 9.95 in the anchor spot of vault as she also won the NCAA vault championship in 2017 when she became the first freshman to win a title; and

WHEREAS, the LSU gymnastics team built momentum throughout the 2019 season, winning the program's fourth, and third-straight, Southeastern Conference Championship, winning the NCAA Regional, and advancing to the national championship final for the fourth-straight year ultimately finishing as the NCAA National Runner-Up to match the highest finish in school history and combined to earn 22 All-America honors; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Finnegan was honored with the AAI Award, which goes to the best senior gymnast in the nation, and was also named the SEC Gymnast of the Year and Central Region Gymnast of the Year for a second-straight year; and

WHEREAS, Finnegan, Julianna Cannamela, Lexie Priessman, and McKenna Kelley, four-time All-American and two-time SEC Floor Exercise champion, concluded their careers as the most dominant senior class in school history as they combined to earn 126 wins, win five SEC Championships, finish as the NCAA National Runner-Up three times, and finish in fourth place in 2018; and

WHEREAS, individual performers, the senior class combined to win two NCAA event championships, eight SEC Event Championships, and earn eight perfect scores; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach D-D Breaux was named the SEC Coach of the Year for the ninth time in her career as she also earned her 800th career win in the Semifinal I for LSU to advance to the first-ever NCAA Four on the Floor; and

WHEREAS, the amazing accomplishments of the team could not have been achieved without the guidance and skills of head coach D-D Breaux, associate head coach Jay Clark, assistant coach Bob Moore, volunteer coach Ashleigh Clare-Kearney, student assistant coach Ashleigh Gnat, and director of operations Katie Copeland, as well as all of the other individuals who have contributed to the success of the LSU gymnastics program; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana recognize each of the extraordinary LSU Tiger's team members, coaches, and staff on their much deserved success throughout the 2019 season which was earned through teamwork, determination, and dedication to the sport of gymnastics.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the gymnasts, coaches, and staff of the Louisiana State University Women's Gymnastics team on a remarkable and memorable season, on winning the Southeastern Conference Championship, the NCAA Regional Championship, and on finishing second in the NCAA National Championship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to D-D Breaux, head coach of the Louisiana State University gymnastics team.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE