

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 109

BY SENATOR LONG AND REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Les Miles on being named as a 2019 inductee into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in Natchitoches, Louisiana, each year collaborates with the Louisiana Sports Writers Association in selecting a limited number of sports figures who embody the character, skill, and talents worthy of being enshrined into the hall of fame; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class includes Les Miles; and

WHEREAS, after completing a stellar high school career at Elyria High School in Elyria, Ohio, where he twice earned all-state honors for football, in addition to earning varsity letters in baseball and wrestling, Les chose to attend the University of Michigan and play for the Wolverines' legendary coach, Bo Schembechler; and

WHEREAS, during his playing days with the Wolverines, Les played on three teams that shared the Big Ten title, participated in epic games during the "Ten Year War" with Ohio State, lettered twice, played in the Orange Bowl, and earned a degree in economics; and

WHEREAS, after a few years in business, Les returned to his beloved alma mater as a graduate assistant (1980-81), coached the offensive line for the Colorado Buffaloes under legendary coach Bill McCartney (1982-86), returned to Michigan as the offensive line coach (1987-94), served as offensive coordinator for the Oklahoma State Cowboys (1995-97), and coached tight ends for the Dallas Cowboys (1998-2000) before being named head coach at Oklahoma State prior to the 2001 season; and

WHEREAS, while serving as the head coach in Stillwater, Coach Miles developed a reputation as a master motivator and winner, with the Cowboys posting winning records

in his last three seasons, earning three bowl bids, beating their hated instate rival, Oklahoma twice, and winning the Associated Press Big XII coach of the year award for the 2002 season; and

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2005, Les was named as the thirty-second head coach of the Louisiana State University Fighting Tigers; and

WHEREAS, in August 2005, days before Coach Miles was scheduled to make his debut as the coach of LSU, Hurricane Katrina struck southern Louisiana, causing LSU's first game to be postponed, while the Tigers' second game against Arizona State was forced to move from Baton Rouge to Tempe on five-day notice, as the LSU campus was still serving as an emergency center for Hurricane Katrina relief; and

WHEREAS, during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Les encouraged his players to assist with the care of evacuees on the LSU campus, earning great respect from Louisianians for putting the needs of its citizens above what may have been best for the team; and

WHEREAS, with a dramatic last minute win in Tempe against the No. 15 Sun Devils, featuring two blocked kicks for touchdowns and a fourth down touchdown pass to win the game, the legend of the "Mad Hatter" was born; and

WHEREAS, after a loss to Tennessee, the 2005 Tigers were on a mission to lift up a state ravaged by hurricanes, and rattled off nine straight wins without an open date on their way to winning the Western Division of the SEC and a berth in the championship game; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 season and the beginning of the Les Miles era at LSU was capped off by a lopsided win over the highly ranked Miami Hurricanes and a top ten finish; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 Tigers capped the 2006 season with a Sugar Bowl triumph over Notre Dame and a top five finish; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, universally viewed as the most exciting season in the history of college football, with LSU having suffered two triple-overtime losses but still winning the SEC championship, and through a series of upsets on the last day of the season, LSU found itself in the BCS National Championship Game to be played in the Louisiana Superdome against the No. 1 Ohio State Buckeyes; and

WHEREAS, as Les had never defeated the Buckeyes as a player at Michigan, he relished the chance to play Ohio State on college football's greatest stage; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers dominated the Buckeyes 35-24 to capture its second national championship of the decade and third in school history; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 SEC Champion Tigers experienced perhaps the greatest regular season in college football history, with victories over No. 3 Oregon (Pac-12 and Rose Bowl Champion) and No. 16 West Virginia (Big East and Orange Bowl Champion), in addition to the gauntlet of SEC foes, including No. 25 Mississippi State, No. 19 Auburn, No. 17 Florida, No. 3 Arkansas, the epic "Game of the Century" 9-6 overtime victory over No. 2 Alabama (BCS National Champion) in Tuscaloosa, and No. 12 Georgia (Sugar Bowl Champion) in the SEC Championship Game; and

WHEREAS, in eleven-plus seasons with the Tigers, Coach Miles averaged over ten wins per season, guided the Tigers to eleven bowl games, seven bowl victories, three SEC championship game appearances, two SEC championships, two BCS National championship game appearances, one BSC National Championship, five Top 10 rankings, and three Top 5 finishes; and

WHEREAS, Les compiled the second most wins and the highest winning percentage in program history, while producing an SEC-leading sixty-nine NFL drafts picks, thirteen first rounders, and twenty-two first team All Americans; and

WHEREAS, under Coach Miles' leadership, LSU players excelled in the classroom, achieving a graduation rate as high as second in the SEC on multiple occasions, two hundred forty graduates, and nearly one hundred ninety SEC Academic Honor Roll members; and

WHEREAS, whether it was the trick plays, quirky press conferences, the way he wore his white hat, or eating grass on the sidelines, Coach Miles captured the imagination of football fans all over Louisiana and the country; and

WHEREAS, LSU Tiger fans and the state of Louisiana will be forever grateful to Coach Miles for his accomplishments on and off the field.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Les Miles on being named as a 2019 inductee into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

SCR NO. 109

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
Les Miles.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES