

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY SENATORS CORTEZ, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, JOHNS, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, PETERSON, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, TARVER, WARD, WHITE AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Armand "Mondo" Duplantis, a former member of the track and field team at Louisiana State University (LSU), on breaking the world indoor record in the pole vault in successive international track and field competitions.

WHEREAS, Mondo Duplantis, a Lafayette, Louisiana, native and former LSU athlete, represents his mother's native country of Sweden in international competition since he maintains dual citizenship, and he is the reigning European champion; and

WHEREAS, Mondo Duplantis broke the world indoor record in the pole vault, which had stood since 2014, with a vault of 20.14 feet (6.17 meters) on February 8, 2020, at the World Athletics Indoor Tour in Torun', Poland; and

WHEREAS, merely one week later, at the Indoor Grand Prix meet in Glasgow, Scotland, on February 15, 2020, Mondo Duplantis vaulted beyond the world record height again to clear 20.28 feet (6.18 meters) breaking his own record by a centimeter; and

WHEREAS, Mondo Duplantis, referred to in *The New York Times* as "the Tiger Woods of pole vaulting", is clearly in excellent form to compete for a gold medal at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, later this year; and

WHEREAS, Mondo Duplantis had set as a goal being the world record holder in the pole vault going into the Olympic games this summer, and he accomplished that by setting these consecutive world record heights; and

WHEREAS, on his way to this world record, Mondo Duplantis garnered several titles and records, including being named *Track & Field* High School Boys Athlete of the Year in both 2017 and 2018, before moving on to LSU; and

WHEREAS, Mondo Duplantis, who set his first age group world best at age seven and was a stellar athlete at LSU, appears to have a brilliant career ahead of him, internationally; and

WHEREAS, Mondo Duplantis broke both records at indoor meets and told the British Broadcasting Company (BBC), "I'm excited for the outdoor season"; and

WHEREAS, with back-to-back record-setting victories, Mondo Duplantis appears poised to rise to the pinnacle of his sport of pole vaulting with an Olympic gold medal to accompany his world records and to take his LSU and Louisiana fans along with him in that quest for continued world pole vault dominance; and

WHEREAS, as the youngest child of LSU track and field stars, Greg and Helena Hudlund Duplantis, a pole vaulter and a heptathlete and volleyball player, respectively, who met while attending LSU, Mondo was destined to have both an interest in sports and some innate athletic ability; and

WHEREAS, his parents say that Mondo Duplantis first tried pole vaulting as a three-year-old at home, set his first age group world best at seven, and as of July 2015, he held the world best height in all age groups from age seven to age twelve; and

WHEREAS, Mondo is coached by his father and the family has a pole vaulting pit in the back yard of their home in Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, one could say that athletic competition is the family "business", with his older brothers, Andreas, a pole vaulter, and Antoine, a baseball player (who became LSU baseball's all-time hits leader last season) who attended LSU on athletic scholarships and Antoine is currently signed with the New York Mets of Major League Baseball; and

WHEREAS, in competition in 2019, Mondo Duplantis, a seven-time Louisiana pole vault champion, became the World Silver Medalist, the National Collegiate Athletic Association Indoor Champion (NCAA), and the record holder at 19 feet 5 inches, the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Field Athlete of the Year, both indoor and outdoor, the SEC Indoor Freshman Athlete of the Year, and in 2018 he was the European Champion and the Under-Twenty World Champion, and is a widely-recognized prodigious talent in international pole vault competition; and

WHEREAS, Mondo Duplantis is the collegiate indoor and outdoor record holder, he holds two of the top three jumps in outdoor collegiate pole vault history, and four of the top marks in collegiate history indoors, achieving a remarkably consistent record of excellence; and

WHEREAS, these are but a few of the countless honors that Mondo Duplantis has garnered in his still-young career, but his lengthy competitive history indicates that he will be ready to compete for what he sees as the ultimate prize, an Olympic Gold Medal this summer; and

WHEREAS, through his long and extremely successful career as a pole vaulter, Mondo Duplantis, 2019 Southeastern Conference Male Rookie of the Year in Track & Field, is focused on his athletic career, and is also a pleasant and personable young man, a world champion, and likely to continue his athletic success on the international level for several years to come.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Armand "Mondo" Duplantis on breaking the world indoor record in the pole vault in successive international track and field competitions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Armand Duplantis.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES