

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY SENATOR CARTER

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Don "Coach Watt" Nicholas Wattigny.

WHEREAS, Don Nicholas Wattigny, fondly known as "Coach Watt", was born March 6, 1939, in Algiers on the Westbank of New Orleans to the late Clifton Nicholas and Alice Huff Wattigny; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Holy Name of Mary High School, Coach Watt was quarterback on that school's 1955 state championship football team and continued his football career playing at Tulane University of Louisiana and later transferred to Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe where he was the captain of the football team while also earning a Bachelor of Arts in Education and later earning a master's degree from Nicholls State University; and

WHEREAS, in 1960 Coach Watt married Edith Fernandez Wattigny, his high school sweetheart, and together they raised three daughters; and

WHEREAS, Coach Watt began his coaching career in 1963, when he was hired at Behrman High School but later moved to Edna Karr Junior High in 1964, where he served as a teacher, head track coach, and assistant football coach under John Owens, eventually becoming head football coach at Edna Karr Junior High in 1981; and

WHEREAS, after many successful seasons, including parish and city championships, Coach Watt retired from Edna Karr Junior High to become an assistant football coach, then head football coach at De La Salle High School, and under his guidance as track coach, De La Salle won its first-ever district track championship; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Coach Watt returned to Edna Karr High School as a social studies teacher and head football coach, where his hard work and dedication formed the foundation and tradition of Edna Karr High School football, having an overall record from 1991 to 2002 of 108-38-1 and culminating with district and state championship honors in 1993; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement from Edna Karr High School, Coach Watt continued to make a difference in the lives of young men by serving as football coach at Christian Brothers School from 2006 - 2011 during which time he had the honor of coaching his grandson, Dylan, in the 2006 and 2007 seasons; and

WHEREAS, Coach Watt served proudly as coach of a girls track team, the Crescent City Striders and the Harvey Oilers Track Team; and

WHEREAS, a mentor to coaches past and present, Coach Watt often returned to Edna Karr High School to mentor and motivate the Cougar football team; and

WHEREAS, Coach Watt was inducted into the De La Salle High School Hall of Fame, became a recipient of the Touchdown Club of New Orleans Prep Award, a board and charter member of the Westbank Quarterback Club, the 69er's Social Club, and Theta Chapter of the Golden Ages; and

WHEREAS, Coach Watt loved boiling seafood, camping, traveling, Sunday brunches, and spending time with family and friends; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated, resourceful, and talented individual, Coach Watt exerted a positive impact on thousands of young lives and was especially proud of his friends and family: Edith, his beloved wife of 59 years; three daughters Janell, Shannon, and Beth; and six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Coach Watt will be sorely missed by the athletes and coaches he mentored, as well as the many friends and family with whom he shared many happy times.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend heartfelt condolences to the family of Don "Coach Watt" Nicholas Wattigny on the occasion of his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Don "Coach Watt" Nicholas Wattigny.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE