

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATOR BERNARD

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate "Sweet" Lou Dunbar for his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame due to his career as an outstanding basketball player for Webster High School in Minden, Louisiana, the University of Houston, and the Harlem Globetrotters.

WHEREAS, "Sweet" Lou Dunbar was born on August 8, 1953, in Minden, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he began his basketball career at Webster High School in Minden and went on to play basketball at the University of Houston on an athletic scholarship where he earned the title of All-American; and

WHEREAS, while in high school "Sweet" Lou, who stood six feet nine inches, played point guard, forward, and center when needed throughout his four years in the all-black athletic association; and

WHEREAS, in his senior season, "Sweet" Lou's scoring average was twenty-six points per game, a team record of thirty-four and one, and the Class AA state title along with being named "Outstanding Player" in the top twenty state tournament, "Outstanding" on the Class AA All-State and All-prep teams, and "Mr. Basketball" in the state all-star game, scoring a record thirty-three points; and

WHEREAS, while he had many college offers to play basketball, he picked the University of Houston, where he averaged twenty plus points per game each year and totaled one thousand seven hundred sixty-five points in seventy-nine games; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, the Philadelphia 76ers selected "Sweet" Lou with the fifty-ninth pick in the fourth round of the NBA draft, however, he never played in the NBA, opting to play professionally in Europe where he helped his team win a national title; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to the states, and playing in a summer league for the Houston Rockets, a scout for the Globetrotters saw what he liked in "Sweet" Lou, made an offer, and for twenty-seven seasons it was "Showtime" for "Sweet" Lou starring for the world's most famous basketball team; and

WHEREAS, during his playing career with the Globetrotters, "Sweet" Lou was known as the showman, the "clown prince", the "garrulous, loud, joking center of attention, ball-handler extraordinaire, and chief protagonist"; and

WHEREAS, he has been involved with the Globetrotters for more than forty years as a player, coach, and director of player personnel; and

WHEREAS, "Sweet" Lou has interacted with fans of all types: royalty, presidents, and prime ministers while traveling three times around the world, playing in front of more than ten million people on six continents including in Rome, as he stood alongside Pope John Paul II on November 29, 2000, when the team named him an honorary Globetrotter; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, he was honored as a Globetrotters' "Legend", a year later in 2008 he was inducted into the University of Houston Athletics Hall of Honor, and on February 15, 2020, his Globetrotters number forty-one jersey was retired.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend "Sweet" Lou Dunbar for his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame due to his career as an outstanding basketball player for Webster High School in Minden, Louisiana, the University of Houston, and the Harlem Globetrotters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to "Sweet" Lou Dunbar.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE