

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY SENATORS BERNARD, ALLAIN, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, JACKSON, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, SMITH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Mackie Freeze, a native Louisianian and outstanding baseball player and high school football coach, on being inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, and for his distinguished thirteen-year career during which he established an exemplary football program at Richwood High School.

WHEREAS, the son of Sterlington's Jhonnie and Mamie Freeze, Mackie became a standout pitcher at Grambling State University; and

WHEREAS, during his baseball career at Grambling, Freeze never lost a game on the mound and even subbed, at the baseball coach's direction, as a guard on Coach Eddie Robinson's football team; and

WHEREAS, while at Grambling, Freeze helped the Tigers win one hundred twenty of one hundred thirty-seven baseball games over his final three college seasons, securing Grambling's first ever national NAIA title under the late Coach R.W.E. "Prez" Jones; and

WHEREAS, upon completing his eligibility as a student athlete at Grambling, the Brooklyn Dodgers signed Freeze, where he participated in training camp with Jackie Robinson, Pee Wee Reese, and Roy Campanella; and

WHEREAS, upon his return to Louisiana, Freeze began his high school football coaching career at Montgomery High School before becoming the head coach at Richwood High School during the 1953-1954 school year; and

WHEREAS, the football program at the old Terzia High School, now Richwood, was the vision of then principal Mrs. Mary Francis Goins, who chose Freeze to make that vision a reality with a three hundred dollar budget; and

WHEREAS, through his persistence and determination, Freeze fought to create an

interest in football at Richwood and in the process created a football dynasty that brought recognition and respect to Richwood's football program while competing in the Louisiana Interscholastic Athletic & Literary Organization; and

WHEREAS, during his first year as coach at Richwood, Freeze's players used donated equipment and uniforms from surrounding schools and posted a five win, one loss record; and

WHEREAS, as Freeze built his program, Richwood won its first state championship during the 1961-1962 season, winning eleven straight games; and

WHEREAS, the 1962-1963 and 1963-1964 seasons produced undefeated state championships for Freeze and Richwood High; and

WHEREAS, Freeze and his team won another state championship during the 1964-1965 season, however, the high point of the season was not winning the state championship, but rather, playing the Carroll Bulldogs for the first time on the gridiron and winning by shutting out the Bulldogs twelve nothing; and

WHEREAS, after winning sixty-six games in a row, Freeze's winning streak came to an end during the 1965-1966 season, although his team won nine games and only lost one; and

WHEREAS, Freeze retired from coaching, to become an assistant principal, at the end of the 1966-1967 season with thirteen straight winning seasons and never having coached a losing season; winning one hundred sixteen out of one hundred thirty-nine games at Richwood; and

WHEREAS, under Freeze's leadership, some sixty-five southside youngsters found their way to college on athletic scholarships and eleven of his players were drafted or signed to professional football contracts; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Freeze was inducted to the second ever class of the Grambling Legends Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mackie Freeze is also known for the compassion he has shown for all his students in their quest for a better life, learning such from the classrooms himself while earning a degree in elementary education from his beloved Grambling in 1950, and later a master's degree in education from Southern University.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Mackie Freeze, a native Louisianian and outstanding baseball player and high school football coach, on being inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, and for his distinguished thirteen-year career during which he established an exemplary football program at Richwood High School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mackie Freeze.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE