

2021 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY SENATOR BERNARD

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Villis P. "Bo" Dowden on being inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Villis P. "Bo" Dowden upon his extraordinary career as a world-renowned
3 bass fisherman and to congratulate him upon his induction into the Louisiana Sports
4 Hall of Fame.

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

9 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame was created in 1958 to honor the
10 state's greatest athletes, men and women, amateur and professional, who have become
11 figures of national or international renown, and to enshrine the state's immortals in the field
12 of athletics; and

13 WHEREAS, Villis P. "Bo" Dowden is one of the most respected and decorated bass
14 fishermen in the history of the sport; and

15 WHEREAS, Bo is a native of Natchitoches Parish, and a 1964 graduate of
16 Northwestern State University, and he developed a love for bass fishing at Toledo Bend
17 since it was impounded in 1967; and

18 WHEREAS, upon graduation from Northwestern, he honorably served his country

1 in the Louisiana National Guard; and

2 WHEREAS, Bo joined the B.A.S.S. Masters Tour during its infancy, helped
3 popularize the tour, cemented "flippin'" as the go-to tactic amongst anglers everywhere, and
4 was among the first to utilize "jig and pork" bait for bass fishing; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1971, B.A.S.S. founder Ray Scott created the "world championship"
6 bass tournament, the Bassmaster Classic, now commonly referred to as the Super Bowl of
7 bass fishing; and

8 WHEREAS, after a second place finish in 1976, and a third place finish in the 1978
9 Bassmaster Classic, Bo became known as the "bridesmaid" of the tour; and

10 WHEREAS, his career reached its pinnacle in 1980, while shedding his bridesmaid
11 moniker and capturing the Bassmaster Classic championship; and

12 WHEREAS, Bo qualified for fourteen Bassmaster Classic World Championships
13 throughout his career which spanned four decades; and

14 WHEREAS, he started Bo's Marine in 1972, a mainstay in the Natchitoches
15 community for over seventeen years, selling boats, motors, and providing repair work; and

16 WHEREAS, after retiring from the B.A.S.S. tour, Bo became a licenced realtor and
17 broker; he established Bo Dowden & Associates Real Estate in Many, Louisiana, where he
18 works with his sons, Villis Jr. and Eason, as well as his wife Gladys; and

19 WHEREAS, Bo looks back at his fishing exploits with a sense of accomplishment,
20 and his business career with a sense of satisfaction; his greatest source of pride is in his
21 family: wife, Gladys; sons, Villis Jr. and Eason; daughter, Merideth; and his three
22 grandchildren; and

23 WHEREAS, he merits a sincere measure of recognition for his extraordinary
24 accomplishments in sports and in life and has earned a special place among the many greats
25 in the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
27 does hereby commend Villis P. "Bo" Dowden on his phenomenal fishing career and does
28 hereby congratulate him upon his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame on
29 August 28, 2021.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does

1 hereby note the good works and great pride that he has bestowed upon the state of Louisiana.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to

3 Villis P. "Bo" Dowden.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

DIGEST

SR 70 Original

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