

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 64

BY SENATORS BERNARD, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, CLOUD, CORTEZ, FIELDS,
HENSGENS, HEWITT, MILLIGAN, PEACOCK, REESE AND
TALBOT

A RESOLUTION

To commend Nick Saban, former national champion LSU head football coach, upon the occasion of his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, Nick Saban was born on Halloween in 1951 in Fairmont, West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed an illustrious athletic career at Monongah High School, where he was named to the all-state team in baseball and basketball and led the football team to the 1968 state championship as its starting quarterback; and

WHEREAS, Nick Saban went on to play defensive back for Kent State University where he helped the Golden Flashes win their first Mid-American Conference title in 1972; and

WHEREAS, after the conclusion of his playing career and graduation from Kent State, Nick Saban found his true calling as a football coach and joined the staff of his alma mater as a graduate assistant; and

WHEREAS, he quickly established himself as an up-and-coming member of the collegiate coaching profession and began a journey that included stops as an assistant coach at Syracuse University, the University of West Virginia, Ohio State University, the United States Naval Academy, and Michigan State University; and

WHEREAS, Nick Saban became a head coach for the first time at the University of Toledo in 1990, where he produced immediate results, guiding the Rockets to a 9-2 record and a share of the Mid-American Conference championship; and

WHEREAS, his success at the University of Toledo provided a springboard to the ranks of professional coaching, where he joined the staff of legendary coach Bill Belichick with the Cleveland Browns as defensive coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Nick Saban returned to the collegiate game in 1995 as the head coach of Michigan State University, where he spearheaded a rebuilding effort of the program, culminating in a Citrus Bowl victory in 1999 that gave the Spartans their first double-digit win season since 1965 and highest ranking since 1966; and

WHEREAS, he arrived in Baton Rouge in 2000 and began the restoration of the LSU Fighting Tigers football program to national prominence; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 Nick Saban led LSU to its first SEC championship since 1986, defeating the University of Tennessee in a thrilling upset in the SEC Championship game that earned the Tigers a berth in the Sugar Bowl, where they defeated the University of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 team achieved immortality by finishing the season with a stellar 13-1 record, again winning the SEC title and securing LSU's first national championship since the famed Chinese Bandits of 1958 with a historic 21-14 victory over the University of Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the tremendous success of his 2003 national champions, Nick Saban was named both the SEC and national coach of the year; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as the LSU head coach, Nick Saban compiled an overall record of 48 wins to just 16 losses and established the Tigers as an elite program capable of annually contending for championships.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend former national champion LSU Head Football Coach Nick Saban upon the occasion of his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Coach Nick Saban.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE