

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY SENATOR BERNARD

A RESOLUTION

To commend Rickie Weeks Jr., international pro baseball star, upon the occasion of his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame was established in 1958 and was intended, in the words of Otis Harris, sports editor of the *Shreveport Journal*, to be "The Louisiana Hall of Fame - a hall of fame for the state's greatest athletes, men or women, amateur or professional, living or dead"; and

WHEREAS, among the remarkable class of honorees to be inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame on August 26-28, 2021, is the former Southern University All-American and prolific collegiate hitter, a man who truly meets the standard for the Hall of Fame advanced in 1950 that still abides today; and

WHEREAS, Rickie Weeks Jr., a native of Altamonte Springs, Florida, played for Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame coach Roger Cador from 2001-2003 before embarking on a fourteen-year major league career after being drafted second overall in 2003 by the Milwaukee Brewers; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, he also became the first standout from the Southwestern Athletic Conference and the second straight Florida resident to receive the honor of being the recipient of the Dick Howser Trophy; and

WHEREAS, in that same year, Rickie Weeks Jr. was named the Baseball America College Player of the Year and also received the Golden Spikes Award as the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I batting champion for the second year in a row with a .479 average while driving in 66 runs; and

WHEREAS, he played center field as a freshman and second baseman the next two seasons, appeared in 160 games and was 254 for 546 at the plate (.465) with 232 runs batted in (RBIs) in leading the Southern University Jaguars to NCAA tournament appearances in each of his three seasons; and

WHEREAS, Rickie Weeks Jr., in his Major League Baseball career with the Milwaukee Brewers (2003, 2005-2014), Seattle Mariners (2015), Arizona Diamondbacks (2016), and Tampa Bay Rays (2017), had a .246 career batting average with 161 home runs, 474 RBIs and 132 steals; and

WHEREAS, in his top hitting seasons he hit .279 in 2006 and .274 in 2014, but he hit .269 with 29 homers and 83 RBIs in 2010, and in 2011 was the starting second baseman for the National League in the All-Star game and finished that season hitting .269 with 20 home runs and 49 RBIs; and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana wishes to recognize Rickie Weeks Jr. for his peerless athletic career and for his well-deserved induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Rickie Weeks Jr., international pro baseball star, 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 Rickie Weeks Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE