

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 63

BY SENATOR BERNARD

A RESOLUTION

To commend Ronnie Coleman on being inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, Ronnie Dean Coleman was born in Monroe, Louisiana, on May 13, 1964, and was a native of Bastrop, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he reached a high level playing football during high school which motivated him to lift weights and set out on his fitness journey; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie's performance as a football player led to a scholarship offer to Grambling State University to study accounting and play football; and

WHEREAS, he played football as a middle linebacker with the GSU Tigers under Coach Eddie Robinson; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Coleman graduated cum laude from Grambling State University in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in accounting; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation he moved to Texas in search of work and eventually became a police officer in Arlington, Texas, where he was an officer from 1989 to 2000 and a reserve officer until 2003; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie joined the world famous Metroflex Gym, where he quickly developed a bond with the owner, Brian Dobson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dobson ultimately gave Ronnie a lifetime free membership if he allowed Mr. Dobson to train him for competition; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie's hard work and determination lead to him winning the 1990 Mr. Texas show at the age of twenty-six; and

WHEREAS, he won the first place trophy in the 1991 World Amateur Championships in Poland, which resulted in him earning the prestigious Pro Card; becoming a professional bodybuilder at the age of twenty-seven; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie won his first professional competition the Canada Pro Cup, in

1995; and

WHEREAS, this victory thrust him into the spotlight, and he became to be seen as one of the upcoming stars of the future; and

WHEREAS, over the next ten years, Ronnie experienced a remarkable winning streak, dominating most competitions he entered; and

WHEREAS, during this period, he wrote his name into the record books; Ronnie matched Lee Haney's record by winning the prestigious Mr. Olympia show eight times; and

WHEREAS, the Mr. Olympia title is awarded to the winner of the professional mens bodybuilding contest at Joe Weider's Olympia Fitness & Performance Weekend, which is an international bodybuilding competition that is held annually by the International Federation of Body Building & Fitness; and

WHEREAS, the Mr. Olympia title is regarded as the gold standard and supreme championship in the bodybuilding world; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie went through and beat a murderer's row of competitors including the likes of Flex Wheeler, Shawn Ray, Kevin Levrone, Lee Priest, and Jay Cutler; which ultimately led to Ronnie being known as one of the greatest bodybuilders in the history of the sport; and

WHEREAS, after a record-breaking fifteen years spent competing at the highest level, Ronnie made the decision to retire after the 2007 Mr. Olympia; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie was the recipient of the 2001 Admiral in the Texas Navy Certificate Award from Texas Governor Rick Perry for outstanding achievements in bodybuilding and for the promotion of physical fitness; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, he launched Ronnie Coleman Signature Series, a company that provides sports nutrition and wellness products for bodybuilders and other athletes; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie left the sport of bodybuilding as a legend, nicknamed the G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time), beating Arnold Schwarzenegger's Mr. Olympia Record, and cementing his name among other sports icons; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Coleman has truly represented his home state of Louisiana and made us all proud, not just by his victories on the grandest bodybuilding stage of them all, the Mr. Olympia Competition, but also as a pillar in the community; and

WHEREAS, the legendary career of Ronnie Coleman has earned him a special place among the many greats in the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Ronnie Coleman on being inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Ronnie Coleman and Metroflex Gym in Arlington, Texas.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE