

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 73

BY SENATOR BERNARD

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Doug Ireland for receiving the 2021 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and on being inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the citizens and Senate of Louisiana have learned of the prestigious honor bestowed upon Doug Ireland for receiving the 2021 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and on his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, at the age of fourteen, Doug Ireland began writing as a sportswriter and columnist at the weekly *Jackson Independent* and broadcasting for the local radio station while playing two sports at Jonesboro-Hodge High School; and

WHEREAS, between 1981 and 1982 while an undergraduate at Northwestern State, Doug Ireland worked as chief of the *Shreveport Times Natchitoches Bureau* coordinating news coverage of an eight parish region along the Red River; and

WHEREAS, from 1982 to 1985, Doug worked as the assistant sports information director at Southwestern Louisiana, now UL Lafayette, working with a mens basketball program that made three straight post season tournament appearances; and

WHEREAS, from 1985 to 1986, Doug was the sports editor of the *Natchitoches Times*; a 1986 Northwestern State University broadcast journalism graduate, he attended graduate school at Northeast Louisiana, now UL Monroe, before joining the Alexandria *Town Talk* sports staff in 1987, wherein in eighteen months at the *Town Talk* he covered both NSU and LSU sports and won fifteen writing awards from the Louisiana Sports Writers' Association; and

WHEREAS, in January 1989, Tynes Hildebrand, the athletic director of Northwestern State, hired Doug Ireland which launched his thirty year run as the acclaimed,

innovative sports information director at his alma mater, Northwestern State University; and

WHEREAS, armed with nearly a decade's worth of experience in newspapers and as an assistant sports information director at UL Lafayette, Doug quickly put his stamp on NSU athletics; and

WHEREAS, his talents, institutional knowledge, and relationships in sports circles have been invaluable to Northwestern and has earned Doug a reputation as an icon in sports media in Louisiana and far beyond, making him the recipient of numerous highly coveted awards, including his 1992 football media guide which earned *Best in the Nation* honors in the Football Championship Subdivision ranks from the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America; and

WHEREAS, Doug has received many other notable awards, including a 1997 historical event marking Demon great Joe Delaney's induction in the College Football Hall of Fame, as second in a national CoSIDA contest; in 2008 Doug received the "Distinguished American" award given by the Northwest Louisiana's McNaughton Chapter of the National Football Federation; four years later he was named the *Town Talk's* CENLA Sportsman of the Year; and in 2016 the Southland Conference tabbed him as the winner of the Louis Bonnette Sports Media Award, named for the former McNeese sports information director; and

WHEREAS, while serving at Northwestern State, Doug held a dual role as chairman of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, housed in Natchitoches, where he managed all aspects of the annual Hall of Fame selections and inductions from 1990-2010, and since has continued to coordinate elections while collaborating with LSHOF Foundation leaders to stage the Induction Celebration each year; and

WHEREAS, his volunteer efforts with the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame helped lead to the development and construction of the \$23 million Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northeast Louisiana History Museum, which opened to international architectural acclaim in June 2013; and

WHEREAS, Doug Ireland is a dedicated friend, colleague, an administrator in the true sense of the word, an advocate, and a public servant in the finest sense, and is totally involved in his community, state, and country on behalf of the betterment of his fellow man.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the numerous accomplishments and extraordinary career of Doug Ireland and commends and congratulates him for receiving the 2021 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and on being inducted in the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Doug Ireland.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE