

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 86

BY SENATOR FOIL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Coach Paul Mainieri on his extraordinary accomplishments and achievements and for the distinction and honor he has brought to LSU and to Louisiana on the occasion of his retirement as head coach of the LSU Baseball Team.

WHEREAS, Paul Mainieri, who led the LSU Tigers to the 2009 national championship, will retire at the end of the 2021 season at the NCAA Tournament; and

WHEREAS, he ranks first among active NCAA Division I coaches in career victories, having posted a 1,501-774-8 (.659) career record and is No. 7 all-time among NCAA Division I Baseball coaches in career wins; and

WHEREAS, his collegiate coaching career spans thirty-nine seasons, including six seasons at St. Thomas College (1983-1988), six seasons at the Air Force Academy (1989-1994), twelve seasons at Notre Dame University (1995-2006), and fifteen seasons at LSU (2007-2021), encompassing the 2021 NCAA Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the sixty-three year-old Mainieri is one of only five coaches in NCAA Division I Baseball history to win 1,500 games and a national championship; and

WHEREAS, during his LSU tenure, the Tigers have captured thirty team championships, including the 2009 NCAA title, eight NCAA Regional championships, five College World Series appearances/NCAA Super Regional championships, four Southeastern Conference championships, six SEC Tournament titles, and six SEC Western Division crowns; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mainieri's six SEC tournament titles tie him with former LSU coach Skip Bertman and former Alabama coach Jim Wells for the most in league history;

and

WHEREAS, he is the second-winningest coach at LSU with a 637-282-3 (.693) mark and has the third-highest career winning percentage in SEC history, trailing only Coach Bertman who was 870-330-3 (.724) from 1984-2001 and former South Carolina coach Ray Tanner who posted a 738-316 (.700) mark from 1997-2012; and

WHEREAS, under Mainieri, the Tigers earned an NCAA Tournament Top 8 National Seed in six consecutive seasons (2012-2017), making LSU and Stanford (1999-2004), the only schools in NCAA history to capture six straight Top 8 National Seeds and, since 2008, LSU has earned nine NCAA Tournament National Seeds, the second-best mark in the country over the past thirteen seasons; and

WHEREAS, Mainieri's LSU players have earned First-Team All-America recognition on thirteen occasions and twenty of his former Tigers have played Major League Baseball, including MLB All-Stars DJ LeMahieu, Alex Bregman, and Aaron Nola; and

WHEREAS, LSU players have been chosen in the MLB draft on eighty-eight occasions during Coach Mainieri's tenure, including a first-round selection in seven of the past twelve seasons; and

WHEREAS, he served as the head coach of the United States Collegiate National Team for its 2018 summer tour and led Team USA to a 12-3 record, including series victories over Chinese Taipei, Japan, and Cuba; and

WHEREAS, his sincere commitment to everyday excellence was recognized on January 3, 2014, in Dallas, Texas, when he was inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mainieri, a four-time National Coach of the Year, joined in the Hall of Fame his father, Demie Mainieri, who coached Miami-Dade North Community College to 1,012 wins and a national title in his thirty-year career and Demie and Paul Mainieri are the only father-son combination in the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Paul Mainieri was born on August 29, 1957, in Morgantown, West Virginia, raised in Miami, Florida, attended LSU where he earned a letter in 1976 as a freshman outfielder and where he also met his future wife, Karen, then a Fighting Tiger

cheerleader, attained a bachelor's degree in physical education from Florida International in 1980, and earned a master's degree in sports administration from St. Thomas, Florida, in 1982; and

WHEREAS, he is married to the former Karen Fejes and they have four children, Nicholas, Alexandra, Samantha, and Thomas and four grandchildren, Holden, Jonathan, Wren, and Rocco; and

WHEREAS, he played one season for his father at Miami-Dade North Community College and two seasons at the University of New Orleans, where as a second baseman, he helped the Privateers win two Sun Belt Conference titles and advance to the 1979 NCAA Tournament; and

WHEREAS, Paul Mainieri entered the coaching profession at his alma mater, Columbus High School in Miami, where he worked as assistant baseball coach and assistant football coach, and where he was inducted into the Columbus High Sports Hall of Fame in 2009; and

WHEREAS his collegiate coaching career began in 1983 at St. Thomas University and in March 2013, the university named its new baseball facility in honor of Mainieri, who also worked as the school's director of athletics for three years and was recognized as the 1984 Sunshine State Conference Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Paul Mainieri was the first civilian baseball coach at the United States Air Force Academy and four of his players went on to attain the rank of general in the armed forces and one of his former players, retired Major Mike Kazlauskis, is now the head coach at the academy; and

WHEREAS, at Notre Dame University he directed the Irish to fourteen different team titles, including a 2002 NCAA Super Regional championship and a berth in the College World Series; sixty of his players signed professional contracts, and eight of them reached the Major Leagues; and

WHEREAS, while at Notre Dame University, he was the 2001, 2002, and 2006 ABCA Midwest Region Coach of the Year, 2001 Big East Coach of the Year, 2000 National Coach of the Year (College Baseball Insider) and his teams appeared in nine NCAA tournaments in twelve seasons, had forty-plus win seasons in eleven times, appeared in the

2002 College World Series, 2002 NCAA Regional and Super Regional Championship, won five Conference Tournament Championships, and seven Conference Regular Season Championships; and

WHEREAS, Paul Mainieri was hired as LSU's coach in June 2006 and just three years later, led the 2009 Tigers to the College World Series title, posting a 56-17 overall record, including a 10-1 mark in NCAA Tournament competition; and

WHEREAS, while at LSU, he has been the recipient of 2018 USA Baseball Rod Dedeaux, 2017 Stan Musial Award, 2015 National Coach of the Year (College Baseball Foundation, NCBWA), 2014 Inductee into the American Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame, 2009 National Coach of the Year (ABCA, Baseball America, Collegiate Baseball, Rivals.com), 2008 National Coach of the Year (Rivals.com, College Baseball Insider), 2015 and 2009 SEC Coach of the Year, and five-time Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Paul Mainieri's emphasis upon academic achievement has been illustrated by the Tigers' performance in the classroom, as one hundred three LSU baseball players have earned their degrees during his tenure with twenty-five of the graduates being players who signed professional contracts before completing their college eligibility and who returned to LSU to finish their degree requirements; and

WHEREAS, in addition, LSU players have received SEC Academic Honor Roll recognition on one hundred forty-one occasions; and

WHEREAS, Paul Mainieri has made an immeasurable impact not only at LSU, but across college baseball and as stated by LSU athletic director Scott Woodward, "Every day he has taken the field, he has honored the game he loves with his class, his character, and his commitment to excellence. We are forever grateful for the championships he has won, the student athletes he has inspired, and memories he has gifted our fans over 15 seasons."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Paul Mainieri upon his retirement as head coach of the LSU baseball team and does hereby express to him the enduring appreciation for his extraordinary leadership of LSU's baseball program and for the honor and distinction he has brought to LSU, to Baton Rouge, and to Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
Coach Paul Mainieri.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES