

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 184

BY REPRESENTATIVES BAYHAM, GALLE, GLORIOSO, AND MELERINE

A RESOLUTION

To commend Michael Shayne "Mike" Leach on his thirty-nine-year career as an educator.

WHEREAS, Mike Leach was born in New Orleans on February 22, 1945, in the final year of the Second World War, a subject that he would study his entire adult life; he graduated from Holy Rosary in 1958 and earned his high school diploma in 1962; and

WHEREAS, after having earned his Bachelor of Liberal Arts from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1966, Mr. Leach went to work for an insurance company but, after six months on the job, opted to trade his profession from insuring lives to ensuring young people have the ability to live well-rounded lives; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Mr. Leach stepped on the oak-tree-shaded, historic, lower 9th Ward campus of Holy Cross High School as a teacher, beginning a thirty-nine year tenure which positively impacted the lives of an estimated 6,000 students; and

WHEREAS, while teaching at Holy Cross High School, Mike worked to enhance his education credentials pursuing his certification at Loyola University New Orleans and Master of Education degree; he earned his postgraduate degree in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Mike was highly regarded by his faculty peers and the school administration; he served as Head of the English Department at Holy Cross High School from 1973 until 2006; and

WHEREAS, Mike, affectionately referred to as "Teach", was held in equally high esteem by his students, who frequently requested that he deliver the commencement address and participate in class photos; and

WHEREAS, Mike encouraged his pupils to engage in good-natured raillery, to eschew the company of charlatans and mountebanks, to avoid the schemery of Lady Macbeths, to beware of Big Brother, and to possess the courage of Beowulf when confronting the Grendels of life; and

WHEREAS, Mike Leach spent almost four decades intellectually molding thousands of young men into "Holy Cross Men"—refined gentlemen who live by faith, devoted to the soul's welfare, and often reflect on God; he was awarded an honorary diploma from Holy Cross High School in 2006, officially recognizing him as a Holy Cross Man; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Leach's educational legacy has reached the state capitol in 2024 having taught four of the one hundred five members of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Michael Shayne "Mike" Leach on his thirty-nine-year career as an educator at Holy Cross High School and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his endeavors and enjoy good health for many years to come.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES