SLS 24RS-687 **ORIGINAL**

2024 Regular Session

1

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46

BY SENATOR SEABAUGH

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Tom Burnett upon receiving the Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award and on being inducted into the 2024 class of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2 To commend Tom Burnett upon receiving the 2024 Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports 3 Leadership Award and on being inducted into the 2024 class of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. 4 5 WHEREAS, each year the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in Natchitoches, Louisiana, 6 collaborates with the Louisiana Sports Writers Association in selecting a limited number of 7 sports figures who embody the character, skill, talent, and accomplishment worthy of being 8 named to the Hall of Fame; and 9 WHEREAS, the Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award is a prestigious 10 honor presented annually by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association to an individual who 11 has played a decisive role as a sports leader or administrator benefitting Louisiana and/or bringing credit to Louisiana on the national and international level; and 12 13 WHEREAS, Tom Burnett, a graduate of Louisiana Tech University and West Monroe High School, has attained one of the most prestigious roles in college sports, serving 14 as the chair of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I's Men's 15 Basketball Committee for the 2021-2022 season to culminate five years on that panel; and 16 17 WHEREAS, Burnett is the longest-tenured commissioner in the history of the 18 Southland Conference, serving in the role from December 2002 through May 2022; and

1	WHEREAS, Burnett's legacy with the Southland Conference includes the league
2	emerging as a key leader in the evolution of the NCAA Division I Football Championship
3	Subdivision (FCS), formerly known as Division I-AA, along with initiatives bolstering the
4	overall competitiveness and NCAA post-season success of league members, as well as the
5	academic performance of its institutions and their student-athletes, with an emphasis on
6	promoting community service and the well-being of the student-athletes; and
7	WHEREAS, Burnett led a successful community-wide effort to bring the NCAA
8	Division I Football Championship Game to the Southland Conference's home base of Frisco,
9	Texas, and the league has served as the host conference for the national title contest at
10	Toyota Stadium since 2011; and
11	WHEREAS, television exposure for the Southland Conference grew exponentially
12	under his watch with the expansion of national and regional coverage, including the
13	Southland Conference's broadcast agreement with ESPN Networks that ultimately turned
14	into a multi-million dollar deal for the Southland Conference; and
15	WHEREAS, in 2014, the Southland Conference became the first FCS conference to
16	implement full NCAA football instant replay for all home games, and later formed an
17	officiating consortium with the Big XII Conference and the Mountain West Conference; and
18	WHEREAS, Burnett was presented the National Football Federation's Legacy Award
19	in 2022, recognizing his significant impact on the college game; and
20	WHEREAS, prior to joining the Southland Conference, Burnett spent nearly eleven
21	years in numerous roles with the Sun Belt Conference in New Orleans, including stints as
22	associate and assistant commissioner and director of communications; and
23	WHEREAS, Tom Burnett has held roles at the American South Conference and
24	Louisiana Tech, and he now heads Southwest Sports Partners, an athletic administrative
25	consulting firm in Frisco, Texas.
26	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
27	commend Tom Burnett upon receiving the 2024 Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership
28	Award and on being inducted into the 2024 class of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.
29	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Tom

30

Burnett.

SLS 24RS-687

ORIGINAL
SCR NO. 46

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Kathy Liberty.

DIGEST 2024 Regular Session

SCR 46 Original

Seabaugh

Commends Tom Burnett upon receiving the 2024 Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award and on being inducted into the 2024 class of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.