

1 indelible mark on generations of students and athletes; and

2 WHEREAS, Strother began his coaching career in 1982 at Florien High School,
3 where he founded the girls' basketball program and guided the Florien Lady Black Cats to
4 unprecedented success over a forty-year coaching career; and

5 WHEREAS, over the course of those four decades, Strother compiled an
6 extraordinary overall record of 1,235 victories and 395 losses, becoming the all-time leader
7 in Louisiana in girls' basketball coaching wins and ranking second nationally at the time of
8 his retirement following the 2022–2023 season; and

9 WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Florien Lady Black Cats qualified for the state
10 tournament thirty-nine times and advanced to the state semifinals twenty-one times,
11 including during his final season when his team posted an outstanding 29–3 record and again
12 competed among the state's elite programs; and

13 WHEREAS, Strother led Florien to six state championships and five state runner-up
14 finishes, establishing the Lady Black Cats as one of the most respected and consistently
15 successful programs in Louisiana high school basketball; and

16 WHEREAS, his coaching excellence was widely recognized throughout the state as
17 he was named Class B Coach of the Year five times and earned district coach of the year
18 honors on twenty-four occasions; and

19 WHEREAS, Strother's contributions extended beyond basketball as he served as
20 athletic director at Florien High School for more than thirty years and also coached the
21 school's softball and golf teams, demonstrating a lifelong commitment to student athletics
22 and extracurricular development; and

23 WHEREAS, in addition to his coaching duties, Strother devoted forty-nine years to
24 education as a teacher at Florien High School and was recognized for his dedication to
25 students when he was named Sabine Parish Teacher of the Year for the 1982–1983 academic
26 year; and

27 WHEREAS, among the most meaningful moments of his storied career was the
28 opportunity to coach his two granddaughters during his final season, fulfilling a promise he
29 made to remain on the sidelines until their graduation; and

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