

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 76

BY SENATOR SEABAUGH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Dewain Strother on being inducted into the 2026 class of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, each year the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in Natchitoches, Louisiana collaborates with the Louisiana Sports Writers Association in selecting a limited number of sports figures who embody the character, skill, talent, and accomplishment worthy of being named to the Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class includes Dewain Strother; and

WHEREAS, Dewain Strother, a native of Oakdale who was raised in Rapides Parish, has dedicated his life to the development of young athletes and students, serving the community of Sabine Parish for nearly five decades as a teacher, coach, and educational leader; and

WHEREAS, as a student-athlete, Dewain Strother distinguished himself on the basketball court as a member of the 1965 state championship team at Plainview High School, where he developed the passion and discipline that would define his life's work; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Northwestern State University, Dewain Strother embarked upon a distinguished career in education and coaching that would leave an indelible mark on generations of students and athletes; and

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

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

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Florien Lady Black Cats qualified for the state

tournament thirty-nine times and advanced to the state semifinals twenty-one times, including during his final season when his team posted an outstanding 29–3 record and again competed among the state's elite programs; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, even in retirement, Strother's passion for mentoring young athletes remained steadfast, and in 2026 he returned to coaching in an assisting role under his former player, Angela Anthony, who succeeded him as head coach of the Lady Black Cats, exemplifying his enduring devotion to the program and the students he served; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his extraordinary career and lasting contributions to high school athletics, Strother was inducted into the Louisiana High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2023; and

WHEREAS, through his leadership, integrity, and unwavering dedication to the development of young people, Dewain Strother has left a profound and lasting legacy in Louisiana high school athletics and education.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dewain Strother on being inducted into the 2026 class of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dewain Strother.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES