

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 89

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Mike McConathy for his outstanding accomplishments as head coach of the Northwestern State University basketball team and to commend him on another historic season of Demon basketball.

WHEREAS, Mike McConathy has engineered many of the greatest accomplishments in the Demon basketball program's one hundred year history, and it is appropriate to commend and celebrate this beloved and legendary basketball coach who is a widely respected and admired citizen of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mike McConathy was chosen for the 1970s All-Decade Team for his outstanding play as a guard at Louisiana Tech and received 1975-76 Southland Player of the Year honors as the Bulldogs won the conference title; and

WHEREAS, the 2012-2013 season was one of the Demons' best in school history, the team finished with a 23-9 overall record and ranked among the nation's top one hundred teams in eleven NCAA statistical categories, including finishing second nationally in scoring and sixth in steals per game; and

WHEREAS, during the 2012-2013 season, Coach McConathy became the winningest men's college basketball coach in Louisiana history with a combined three hundred fifty-two career victories at Bossier Parish Community College and Northwestern State University; and

WHEREAS, in tribute to Coach McConathy's outstanding accomplishments, a banner has been hung in Prather Coliseum to honor his legacy, and the banner hangs near the No. 14 banner commemorating the number retired to honor his father, John McConathy, who is one of the Demons' all-time greatest players; and

WHEREAS, this past season also saw the Demons record a twenty-plus win season for the third time under Coach McConathy, and it was the tenth twenty-win season in school history and the third in NSU's Division I history; and

WHEREAS, the 2012-2013 season also marks the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the Southland Conference and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the NCAA Tournament, and it was the one hundredth year of Demon basketball, which was commemorated by a Centennial Celebration at Northwestern on March 9, 2013; and

WHEREAS, throughout the fourteen seasons that Coach McConathy has been at Northwestern, he has increased the number of players recruited from Louisiana from twenty-three percent of the roster in the 1999 season to an all-time high of eighty-six percent in 2010; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Coach McConathy, the Demons have recorded two wins in the NCAA Tournament, over Winthrop in 2001 and over Iowa in 2006; three Southland Conference Tournament Championships; seven appearances in the Southland Conference Tournament championship game; three twenty-win seasons in the last nine years; and two hundred twenty-three wins overall; and

WHEREAS, those who have worked closely with Coach McConathy throughout his exemplary career respect and admire him for the indelible mark he has made on the Northwestern State University basketball program and for the legacy of excellence he continues to uphold; and

WHEREAS, Coach McConathy has been a mentor to countless players over the years, has given guidance to them both on and off the court, and challenges them to succeed not only as athletes but as well-rounded human beings; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to recognize Coach McConathy for his outstanding achievements, dedication, and contributions during his tenure at Northwestern State University, to express enduring gratitude for his monumental achievements during a truly transformative period in the history of the basketball program, and to extend appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that he will forever bring to Northwestern State University and the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that special acknowledgment be extended in celebration of Coach McConathy, a distinguished gentleman who will forever be an inspiration to the

countless students, athletes, colleagues, friends, relatives, and citizens whose lives he has touched.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby acknowledge and record for posterity the extraordinary accomplishments and singular contributions of Mike McConathy, head basketball coach at Northwestern State University, does hereby commend and congratulate him for his success and triumph in coaching the great sport of basketball, does hereby commemorate his distinction as the winningest men's college basketball coach in Louisiana history, does hereby recognize and record for posterity his outstanding accomplishments and his incredible legacy of excellence, does hereby express enduring gratitude for the pride and honor he brings to Northwestern State University and to the state of Louisiana, and does extend to him every good wish for continued success and happiness at the helm of Demon basketball.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mike McConathy, head coach of the Northwestern State men's basketball program.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES