

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 160

BY SENATORS BROOME AND WARD

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Kendall Beckwith on being named one of the "Elite Five" selected to receive the 2013 Watkins Award by The National Alliance of African American Athletes.

WHEREAS, The National Alliance of African American Athletes was founded in 1989 with the vision of being the preeminent organization helping youth achieve academic excellence and reach their highest potential; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the alliance is to uplift and mentor youth, focusing on African-American males, through programs that prepare students for college; leveraging athletes as catalysts to inspire leadership, while recognizing and rewarding academic, athletic, and community excellence; and

WHEREAS, The Franklin D. Watkins Memorial Trophy Award was initiated in 1992 to promote academic excellence among young African-American males as a means for recognizing exceptionally talented African-American male athletes who, by their example, help promote high academic standards and a commitment to community service; and

WHEREAS, since 1992, the Watkins Award has become the preeminent award bestowed on the top High School Scholar Athlete in the Nation as the finalists are chosen based on their unweighted grade point average, their personal statements, extracurricular activities, community service, and letters of recommendation; and

WHEREAS, at its Awards Ceremony held on February 23rd and 24th, 2013, the alliance named its "Elite Five" recipients including Kendall Beckwith of Clinton, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Kendall Beckwith is a member of the National Honor Society, the Honor Roll of America, the Beta Club, and the Future Farmers of America; is a volunteer with the Clinton Community Football League; has been named ESPN Radio Player of the

Year, Times Picayune of New Orleans Defensive Player of the Year, All-District, All-State Defensive MVP, All Metro Defensive MVP, and Under Armour All American while also maintaining a 3.4 GPA at East Feliciana High School; and

WHEREAS, he is one of the nation's premier outside linebacker prospects for the Class of 2013, one of the top prospects in the state, and a consensus four-star recruit, who was the recipient of the 2012 Warrick Dunn Award, and who has signed to play football at LSU; and

WHEREAS, Kendall Beckwith's parents are Wendell and Urhonda Beckwith and he has a brother, Wendell Beckwith Jr., who plays defensive end for Tulane University, and a cousin, Darry Beckwith, who was a two-time second-team All-SEC linebacker at LSU.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana that Kendall Beckwith is hereby recognized and commended on his selection as one of the "Elite Five" recipients of the 2013 Watkins Award by The National Alliance of African American Athletes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate hereby extends best wishes for continued success to Kendall Beckwith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Kendall Beckwith.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE