

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 61

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Dale Ketelson, former LSU and high school wrestling coach.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Dale  
3 Ketelson and record for posterity the enduring appreciation of the citizens of  
4 Louisiana for his outstanding contributions to and achievements in college and high  
5 school wrestling.

6 WHEREAS, it is with regret that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana have  
7 learned of the death of Dale Ketelson, long-time wrestling coach and Osage, Iowa, native,  
8 at age seventy-eight on March 22, 2014; and

9 WHEREAS, he earned a wrestling scholarship to Iowa State University after  
10 graduation from Osage High School, earned three varsity letters as a member of the  
11 wrestling team, placing third in the 1957 NCAA tournament and second in 1958 and also  
12 was a member of the Iowa State baseball team that played in the College World Series; and

13 WHEREAS, after graduating from ISU in 1959, he went on active duty with the  
14 United States Marine Corps reserve for six months before returning to his alma mater as  
15 assistant wrestling coach for two years; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1960, Dale Ketelsen wrestled in the Olympic trials and then coached  
17 in high school at Riverside-Brookfield High in Illinois producing thirty all-conference  
18 wrestlers, twenty district champions, eight regional champions, and two state champions;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, in 1968, Dale Ketelsen became Louisiana State University's first varsity  
3 wrestling coach and, during his tenure from 1968-78, his teams won two Southeastern  
4 Conference Intercollegiate Wrestling tournaments, producing fifteen individual conference  
5 champions, and he was also a member of the NCAA wrestling rules committee; and

6 WHEREAS, after leaving LSU, he coached at Louisiana high schools, at Catholic  
7 High School for nine seasons before moving to Belaire High School where he served as head  
8 wrestling coach and assistant football coach for some twenty years, and later as assistant  
9 wrestling coach at St. Paul's in Covington; and

10 WHEREAS, he was a primary contributor in the promotion of high school wrestling  
11 in the state as he helped organize and run state wrestling tournaments on the LSU campus  
12 from 1968 through 1974, first at the old Gym Armory and later at the Assembly Center  
13 before the Louisiana High School Athletic Association assumed operation of the event; and

14 WHEREAS, he was a "go-to" guy for coaches who wanted to learn about wrestling  
15 in Baton Rouge for he knew the sport and its rules so well that he became a valuable  
16 resource for anyone seeking information about the sport he loved; and

17 WHEREAS, Dale Ketelson was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame  
18 and was named Master of Wrestling by Wrestling USA magazine; and

19 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of fifty-two years, Pat Ballard Ketelsen; two  
20 sons: Craig Ketelsen, the athletic director-wrestling coach at St. Paul's in Covington, and  
21 Erik Ketelsen; one daughter, Penny Kelly; and five grandchildren and numerous nieces and  
22 nephews; and

23 WHEREAS, the death of Dale Ketelson has left a great void and created a genuine  
24 sense of sorrow in all who knew him, particularly those he coached and those who love the  
25 sport of high school wrestling, all of whom mourn the loss of this wonderful man who was  
26 instrumental in the development of the sport in his adopted home state; and

27 WHEREAS, Dale Ketelson leaves behind a rich legacy in high school wrestling and  
28 will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
30 express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of former wrestling coach, Dale

1 Ketelson, and does hereby record for posterity the enduring appreciation of the citizens of  
2 Louisiana for his outstanding contributions and achievements in the areas of college and  
3 high school wrestling.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his  
5 wife, Pat Ballard Ketelson.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

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DIGEST

Claitor

SCR No. 61

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