

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY SENATOR THOMPSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) cheerleading team for their fourth place national ranking at the 2015 Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) National Competition.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the citizens and Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned about the honor earned by the ULM cheerleading team at the 2015 UCA National Competition in Orlando, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the ULM cheerleading team promotes Warhawk school spirit throughout campus by leading chants and cheers at sporting events and other campus activities; and

WHEREAS, this group of athletes also devotes time to community service by upholding the university's positive values of integrity and improvement, thereby bringing great pride to their state and their community; and

WHEREAS, the ULM cheerleading team deserves gratitude for their continued dedication to the university, but also immense congratulations for their performance in the 2015 UCA National Cheerleading Championship on January 18, 2015, where the team won fourth place in the Division IA All-Girl bracket, arguably considered the most competitive division of UCA; and

WHEREAS, this was the first time ULM has competed in the Division IA All-Girl bracket, thus setting a high standard of performance not only for the state of Louisiana, but also the entire country; and

WHEREAS, the ULM cheerleading team has a long and proud history of success competing in the UCA National Championship; and

WHEREAS, over the past ten years, ULM has competed in the Small Coed D1 Division, placing in the top ten a total of seven times and earning three national championship titles, and the team's previous rankings in the Small Coed D1 Division are as

follows: 2014 and 2013 - 9th place, 2012 - 10th place, 2010 - 6th place, 2009 - 4th place, 2008 - National Champions, 2007 - 3rd place, 2006 - 2nd place, and in 2005 and 2004 - National Champions; and

WHEREAS, the transition from Coed to All-Girl requires a change in routines and stunts, but these challenges did not hinder the performance of the ULM cheerleaders at the UCA National Cheerleading Championship; and

WHEREAS, coaches Peaire Allison and Nick Gaspard, both of whom were members of the 2005, 2006, and 2008 cheerleading teams, helped ease this transition with their knowledge and love of the sport; and

WHEREAS, between January 16 through 18, 2015, teams from all around the country gathered in Orlando, Florida, to compete for the title of Division IA All-Girl National Champions; and

WHEREAS, twenty-one universities entered the competition, including the University of Alabama, Mississippi State University, and Florida State University, and on January 18, 2015, the final fourteen universities competed for the coveted championship title; and

WHEREAS, after an incredible performance by the Warhawk cheerleaders, they earned the ranking of fourth place in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the twenty-nine members of the 2015 ULM IA All-Girl championship team are as follows: Keri Anderson of Shreveport, Lacy Bagbey of Monroe, Angela Cash of Elm Grove, Emily Cecil of Stonewall, Skylar DeRouen of New Iberia, Ann Elyse Dozier of Monroe, Alyssa Fontenot of Pineville, Jaimie Gilley of Monroe, Amber Griffin of Monroe, Hannah Hogan of Shreveport, Gabrielle Kelly of Monroe, Hunter Kerlegan of Houma, Erika McDermott of Monroe, Kristen McKeithen of Shreveport, Jordan Mertens of Ball, Jennifer Nelson of Monroe, Maitland Oller of Minden, Kelsey Osbon of Minden, Lindsey Owens of Springhill, Katelynn Roy of West Monroe, Jesse Smith of Monroe, Madison Smith of Monroe, Ciara Snelling of Shreveport, Kristyn Stinson of Marion, Kristen Toms of West Monroe, Raegan Trusty of Paris, Arkansas, Me'Arisha Walker of Summit, Mississippi, Allison Willard of Sterlington, and Dominique Young of Marrero, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, ULM cheerleading is a tradition on campus that continues to excel; and

WHEREAS, the team demonstrates unwavering dedication and its members deserve only the best recognition and appreciation, whether it be at a sporting event or the UCA championship, ULM cheerleading displays Warhawk pride to an extraordinary degree.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the ULM cheerleading team for their fourth place national ranking and wishes them much success preparing for the UCA National Cheerleading Championship next year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the University of Louisiana at Monroe cheerleading team.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE