

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY SENATORS GATTI, LONG AND PEACOCK AND REPRESENTATIVES BAGLEY,  
HORTON, MIKE JOHNSON, JIM MORRIS AND SEABAUGH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of  
John McConathy.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the  
Louisiana Legislature have learned of the passing of John McConathy, on April 19, 2016,  
at age eighty-six; and

WHEREAS, born on April 9, 1930, John McConathy was the second of three  
brothers who became basketball stars at Northwestern State University (NSU) in  
Natchitoches, Louisiana, including his older brother J.L., who preceded him in death, and  
younger brother George; all three brothers being inducted in the N-Club Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, he came to what was then known as Louisiana Normal in 1947, leaving  
the family farm near Bryceland in rural Bienville Parish to follow the path of his older  
brother; hitchhiking to Natchitoches as he was told by coach H. Lee Prather that no  
basketball scholarship was available; and

WHEREAS, the McConathy brothers teamed up on the 1948-49 squad that is  
considered Prather's finest, going 23-5 and reaching the NAIA Tournament semifinals; and

WHEREAS, as a senior six foot five inch forward, McConathy set single-season  
school records by scoring 562 points and averaging 21.6 per game, with a pair of career-best  
35-point games against Centenary and Southern Mississippi; in his college career  
(1947-1951) played sixty-seven games and scored 1,092 points for an average of 16.3 points  
per game; was named an All-American; then was invited to play in the College All-Star  
Game in Chicago and caught the attention of NBA scouts, being the fifth pick in the 1951  
NBA draft of the Syracuse Nationals and played one season for the Milwaukee Hawks; and

WHEREAS, his pro career was interrupted because he had to return home to  
National Guard meetings during the Korean War period; and

WHEREAS, McConathy was a 2005 inductee in the Long Purple Line, the university's Hall of Distinction for former students, and was enshrined in the N-Club Hall of Fame, which honors the top athletes, coaches and staff members in NSU history, in 1972; and

WHEREAS, although his No. 14 Demon jersey was retired by the university, it was brought out of retirement for four seasons when his son Michael played at the university; and

WHEREAS, among many other honors, he was a 1982 inductee in the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame and a member of the Ark-La-Tex Museum of Champions in Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, after his playing days, McConathy was an educator in the Bienville Parish and Bossier Parish school systems for thirty-one years, first as a teacher and coach and then as Bossier High School's Assistant Principal; and

WHEREAS, as basketball coach at Bossier High School, he led the Bearkats to the school's first state boys basketball championship in 1960; and

WHEREAS, McConathy was the Business Manager for the Bossier Parish School Board before becoming the Assistant Superintendent and was elected Superintendent of Bossier Schools in 1971, retiring in 1983; and

WHEREAS, he was a driving force behind the design and acquisition of funding for the \$55 million Bossier Parish Community College campus and was a founding member of Citizens National Bank and served as chairman of the board for twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, McConathy served as President of the Louisiana Association of School Business Officials, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents and the Fourth District School Superintendents; and

WHEREAS, his survivors include his wife of sixty-one years, Corene, a daughter, Melinda Guest, and sons Pat, Bill, and Mike, who is the sixteen-year head men's basketball coach at NSU; eleven grandchildren, including three who played as third-generation Demons: Mike's sons Michael and Logan, and Melinda's son Paxton Guest; and seven great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, a sixty-year resident of Bossier City, McConathy kept the family farm in Bienville Parish and was a cattleman; and

WHEREAS, known as "Big John", "Mr. John" and "Hound" to many, and as "Pappy" to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he remained very active until relatively recently, and attended most of the Demons' home games and some road contests in the years his son Mike has been head coach at NSU; and

WHEREAS, although the death of John McConathy has left a tremendous void in the lives of his wife, his children, his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren, and all whose lives he touched, John McConathy leaves a lasting impact on athletics, on education, on his community, and on Northwestern State University, and personified the best characteristics and values of our greatest generation and his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of John McConathy and does hereby express gratitude for the indelible mark that his enduring legacy has left upon Northwestern State University, Bossier Parish, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to John McConathy's wife, Corene McConathy.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES