SLS 16RS-703 **ORIGINAL**

2016 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY SENATOR GATTI

LEGIS POWERS/FUNCTIONS. Designates January 2017 as Fellowship of Christian Athletes Month.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate the month of January 2017 as Fellowship of Christian Athletes Month.

WHEREAS, we can point to a young basketball coach from Oklahoma who, in 1954, saw the potential of athletes and coaches to share the gospel with the world; Don McClanen was a young athlete and coach in the 40s and 50s and wondered why professional athletes endorsed products like shaving cream and cigarettes but not a Christian lifestyle; that insight became the backbone for one of the largest sports ministries in the world that seeks to serve coaches and athletes, all while bringing glory to Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, after reading that thirty million American youth had no religious training, McClanen began posting his articles in the locker room and praying before games, and soon, he was dreaming of a way for well-known Christian athletes to advertise their faith on television and in magazines the way they advertised other household products; and

WHEREAS, for seven years before the birth of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), McClanen prayed about what the organization would look like and whom it would serve, and eventually joined forces with the other FCA founding fathers, Dr. Louis H. Evans, Dr. Roe Johnston, and Branch Rickey, among others who all made FCA come to life; and

WHEREAS, the first FCA national conference was held in 1956 at Estes Park, Colorado, a precursor to today's FCA camps, which are now a staple of FCA's ministry; and

WHEREAS, today, McClanen's legacy has immensely far-reaching effects and thanks to his vision and commitment to God's will for his life, millions have been changed for the better through their love of sports; and

WHEREAS, McClanen passed away on February 16, 2016, at the age of ninety-one; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana FCA has a staff of eighteen; a student/athlete, team, coach huddles of four hundred two people; a retreat and summer camp attendance of two thousand three hundred twenty-nine; a student/athlete annual involvement of ninety-four thousand; and the total bibles distributed is approximately seven thousand five hundred; and

WHEREAS, the student/athlete and coach involvement includes Fields of Faith, See You at the Pole, One Way 2 Play Drug Free, 3-Dimensional Coaching, Coaches Golf Tournament, Coach/Spouse Retreat Weekend, Sports Camp, Team Camp, College Athlete Retreat, Banquet, and Bowl Breakfasts; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of organizations like FCA.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate January 2017 as Fellowship of Christian Athletes Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state director of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Terry Slack.

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

DIGEST

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