

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY SENATORS BOUDREAUX AND CORTEZ AND REPRESENTATIVE PIERRE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate head coach Michael Lotief of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette softball team upon the occasion of earning the seven hundredth win of his head coaching career at the school.

WHEREAS, the seven hundredth victory came against the University of Texas at Corpus Christi on Tuesday March 7, 2017; a milestone Coach Lotief earned during his sixteen years of head coaching at the school; and

WHEREAS, Coach Lotief is a 1981 graduate of Teurlings Catholic High School in Lafayette, Louisiana, received his bachelor's degree at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and his Juris Doctor from Louisiana State University Law School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Michael Lotief is married to former Ragin' Cajuns softball All American, Stefni Whitton Lotief, the couple have two children, Chelsea and Andrew, and Chelsea is currently a redshirt freshman on her dad's roster; and

WHEREAS, Michael Lotief began head coaching duties at the school as a co-head coach with his wife for two years and was named head coach prior to the 2003 season, a position in which he continues to serve; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Coach Lotief was inducted into the Amateur Softball Association and USA Softball Hall of Fame and he was honored by his coaching peers of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association with the prestigious Donna Newberry "Perseverance" award; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 Coach Lotief led the Ragin' Cajuns softball squad to their sixth Women's College World Series appearance, defeating both the University of Texas and the University of Arizona teams to earn the right to compete in the tournament in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Michael Lotief has built a solid softball program at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and in 2016 he guided the team to a third consecutive national seed in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament and a regional host site on their own turf at Lamson Park; and

WHEREAS, the participation in these tournament games in 2016 was the fifth straight NCAA Regional and NCAA Super Regional appearance and the fifth straight Top 15 finish for Coach Lotief's teams; and

WHEREAS, the current string of five consecutive seasons finishing in the Top 15 is the second-longest streak in program history, trailing only the eight Top 15 finishes notched by the program from 1990 through 1997; and

WHEREAS, Coach Lotief has led his teams to over forty wins in each season of his head coaching career, eight seasons with fifty or more victories and a school record sixty wins in 2004; and

WHEREAS, on the day the Ragin' Cajuns softball team obliged their coach by handing him his seven hundredth win, the team, playing a doubleheader, added the seven hundred first victory as well, with a five inning victory over Alcorn State University by a score of fourteen to four; and

WHEREAS, Coach Lotief has brought success and honor to the Ragin' Cajuns softball program, although he continues to assign credit for the positive results to a supportive administration at the school, an outstanding athletic department, loyal fans, and to the outstanding young women who have come through the program; and

WHEREAS, despite Coach Lotief's humility, the players' position on the ability and success of their coach is reflected in this quote from Lexie Comeaux, a sophomore on the team who, as of March 5, 2017, has started every game and was batting a healthy .370, stated "He's the best coach I've ever played for and the best coach in the country, in my opinion. He deserves all the praise and glory".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate head coach Michael Lotief of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette softball team upon earning the seven hundredth win of his head coaching career at the school.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
Coach Michael Lotief.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES