

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATOR LONG AND REPRESENTATIVE HILFERTY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Steve Gleason on receiving the 2018 Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award.

WHEREAS, the Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award is presented annually by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association's thirty-member Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame selection committee to an individual who has played a decisive role as a sports leader or administrator benefitting Louisiana and bringing credit to the state on the national and international level; and

WHEREAS, the Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award is named in honor of Hall of Famer Dave Dixon, the driving force behind bringing the National Football League to Louisiana with the creation of the New Orleans Saints franchise and the man who is also considered the "father" of the Mercedes-Benz Louisiana Superdome; and

WHEREAS, retired New Orleans Saints football player Steve Gleason is the 2018 recipient of the Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award presented by the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Steve Gleason was a standout dual collegiate sport athlete at Washington State University where he started as a linebacker in the 1997 Rose Bowl and started four years for the Cougars baseball team; and

WHEREAS, Steve Gleason was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity while attending Washington State University; and

WHEREAS, as a professional football player, Steve Gleason was originally signed as an undrafted free agent and played for the New Orleans Saints from 2000 through 2006; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2006, Steve Gleason earned a permanent place in Saints lore when he blocked a punt against a rival team in the first quarter of the game; and

WHEREAS, the blocked punt resulted in a touchdown and was one of the most dramatic moments in New Orleans Saints history; and

WHEREAS, that touchdown marked the first score in New Orleans in nearly twenty-one months, during which time Hurricane Katrina had devastated the city of New Orleans and the team; and

WHEREAS, a statue depicting Steve Gleason blocking the punt was raised outside the Superdome as a symbol of New Orleans' resilience in the face of disaster; and

WHEREAS, two years after retiring from the New Orleans Saints, Steve Gleason was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), better known as Lou Gehrig's disease; and

WHEREAS, Steve Gleason, along with his friends and family, started Team Gleason, which is designed to generate public awareness for ALS, raise funds to help those fighting the disease, and ultimately find a cure for the disease; and

WHEREAS, Steve Gleason's continuing efforts and his indomitable lifestyle have made a national and global impact; and

WHEREAS, Steve Gleason will be among the 2018 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame induction class to be spotlighted at the annual induction dinner and ceremonies on Saturday evening, June thirtieth, at the Natchitoches Event Center.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Steve Gleason on receiving the 2018 Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Steve Gleason.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES