

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY SENATOR LONG AND REPRESENTATIVE STEVE CARTER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Jerry Simmons on being named to the 2018 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the citizens and the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the prestigious honor bestowed upon Jerry Simmons on his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, the inductees are chosen after extensive deliberations by an expert panel of Louisiana Sports Writers' Association members from across the state who annually consider more than one hundred nominees for this honor; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Simmons began his epochal coaching tenure in San Antonio, Texas, at Longfellow High School where he served as head football and basketball coach and then at MacArthur High School where he took over the reigns as head tennis coach; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Coach Simmons became the men's tennis head coach at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and at the time was the youngest head coach in the country at the age of twenty-four; and

WHEREAS, Coach Simmons built the Ragin' Cajun men's tennis team from scratch to a number fourteen national ranking in 1982 and compiled a record of two hundred fourteen wins, ninety-two losses, and two ties over eleven years; and

WHEREAS, Coach Simmons then became head coach of the LSU men's tennis team where he has the greatest number of victories in LSU history and the second highest number of wins for tennis coaches in modern day SEC history; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Tigers played in thirteen NCAA Tournaments in fifteen years, including the 1988 final; and

WHEREAS, Coach Simmons compiled an impressive record of two hundred seventy-eight wins with only one hundred five losses, and his teams have ranked in the top twelve nationally thirteen times; and

WHEREAS, Coach Simmons has received many deserved accolades and honors including being named Southland Conference Coach of the year in 1977, 1978, and 1979, Louisiana Coach of the Year eight times from 1987 to 1996, and National Coach of the Year in 1988; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Jerry Simmons was the youngest coach ever inducted into the ITA Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame, and he is a member of the Louisiana Tennis Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, the achievements and stellar career of Jerry Simmons have earned him a place among the many greats in the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Jerry Simmons on his impressive and successful coaching career and on being named as a 2018 inductee to the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Jerry Simmons.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES