

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 215

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAKIN

A RESOLUTION

To commend Warrick Dunn for his incredible athletic career and to request that the National Football League Hall of Fame Committee consider his induction into the National Football League Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, Warrick Dunn was born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and was the oldest of six children born to Betty Smothers; he was thrust into the role of head of the household at eighteen years old after his mother, who was a police officer, was killed while escorting a businesswoman to make a night deposit; and

WHEREAS, Warrick was a standout running back for Catholic High School in Baton Rouge, and after graduating, he accepted a scholarship to play for the Florida State University Seminoles; with the help of his grandmother, he was able to be present as both a father and brother for his siblings and become one of the best running backs in the Seminoles' history; and

WHEREAS, while at Florida State, Warrick was a three-time All-ACC First Team running back, and he became the first running back in school history to record three 1000-yard seasons; he finished his college career as the Seminoles' career rushing leader with 3,959 yards and graduated with a degree in information studies in 1997; his jersey has been retired by the Florida State and is displayed in the Moore Athletic Center; and

WHEREAS, Warrick was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers with the twelfth pick of the first round of the 1997 NFL Draft; after a stellar rookie season, he was recognized as the NFL Rookie of the Year by *Football News*, *Pro Football Weekly*, and *Sports Illustrated*, and NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year by the Associated Press, *Football Digest*, and *College and Pro Football Newsweekly*; over the course of his NFL career, he played five seasons with the Buccaneers and six seasons with the Atlanta Falcons; he retired from the NFL ranked fourteenth all-time for all-purpose yards with 15,306 and nineteenth all-time for rushing yards with 10,967; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Falcons, Mr. Dunn developed a close relationship with team owner Arthur Blank, and in 2009, he was unanimously approved by the NFL team owners to become a limited partner of the team; he realized a long-time goal of expanding his knowledge and experience in the areas of NFL team management, branding, and operations, and in March 2010, he completed the purchase of a minority ownership position in the Falcons organization; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Mr. Dunn's legendary football career, he is well-known for his philanthropic endeavors; during his rookie season in Tampa Bay, he founded the Homes for the Holidays program to fulfill his mother's dream of home ownership for single-parent families; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dunn now has four philanthropic programs under Warrick Dunn Charities: Homes for the Holidays, Count on Your Future, Health Is Your Wealth, and Hearts for Community Service Scholarships; these programs are dedicated to strengthening communities by combating poverty and improving the academic, social, and economic quality of life for families; and

WHEREAS, Warrick Dunn was recognized as the 2004 Walter Payton NFL Man of Year for demonstrating outstanding community service and leadership on and off the field; there are twenty-eight NFL Hall of Famers who have been named the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year, and Mr. Dunn is a worthy candidate to become the twenty-ninth member of this exclusive list; and

WHEREAS, Warrick Dunn is an inspiring man who overcame tremendous hardships with grace, forging an exceptional football career while serving his family and community, and he is most deserving of consideration for induction into the NFL Hall of Fame.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Warrick Dunn for his incredible athletic career and does hereby request the National Football League Hall of Fame Committee to consider his induction into the National Football League Hall of Fame.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES