

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY SENATORS MORRIS, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, CATHEY, EDMONDS, FESI, HENRY, HODGES, JACKSON-ANDREWS, KLEINPETER, MCMATH, MILLER, MIZELL, MYERS, OWEN, PRESSLY, REESE, SELDERS, TALBOT AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Jerry O. Arledge, a beloved coach and mentor, who dedicated more than five decades of his life to influencing high school athletics and athletes, and shaping young lives throughout West Monroe and beyond.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the peaceful passing of Jerry O. Arledge, former head football coach of the West Monroe High School Rebels, at the age of eighty-three; and

WHEREAS, Jerry was born on April 1, 1942, and raised in Oil City, Louisiana, graduating from North Caddo High School; and

WHEREAS, he earned a degree in Health and Physical Education from Louisiana Tech University in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Jerry's love of football from an early age continued at Louisiana Tech, where he played both linebacker and offensive guard in the days when players routinely switched between offense and defense, excelling in both positions; and

WHEREAS, after graduating, he went on to coach football at North Caddo High School, Fair Park High School, Northwestern State University, and Louisiana Tech; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to the game ultimately led Coach Arledge to the campus of West Monroe High School in 1992, where he served as one of the top defensive coordinators in the state, distinguishing himself in that position with eight state

championship teams; and

WHEREAS, he was named head coach of the Rebels in 2013, and led his team to nine district championships and two state championship game appearances, compiling an incredible 104-22-1 record; and

WHEREAS, Coach Arledge's exemplary coaching produced outstanding players and helped to cultivate new careers for those players in the ranks of college and professional football; and

WHEREAS, he proved himself to be a leader of the highest caliber, a catalyst who motivated young athletes to work together, to exceed personal expectations, to attempt seemingly unattainable goals, to demonstrate an exceptional competitive nature and esprit de corps, and to perform as a team made of many cohesive parts; and

WHEREAS, Coach Arledge was honored by the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame in 2021 for his contributions to amateur football, having worked with unflagging vitality out of pure love for the game and a desire to help students play it well; and

WHEREAS, devoted to his faith and a steadfast member of First Methodist Church in West Monroe; Jerry was preceded in death by his grandson, Ben; his parents, Ruel and Myrtle Arledge; and siblings, Edward Arledge, Buster Arledge, and Peggy Densmore; and

WHEREAS, those left to honor and cherish him are his loving wife of over sixty years, the former Sally Lytton of Gilliam, Louisiana; his four children, Sara Blackwell, Will Arledge (Joan), Libby Gleason (Steve), and Rob Arledge (Amanda); his grandchildren, Abby, Will (Laura), Sally, Emily (Matt), Mary, Andrew, Lytton, and Sara Catherine; his five great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, loved ones, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Jerry shall remain an enduring figure in West Monroe sports, his community, and his state for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, he represented all that is good about Louisiana as a man with unique gifts and a charitable spirit, and with his passing Louisiana has lost one of its finest citizens, who left an indelible mark on the lives of the many individuals whom he touched with his inspiring qualities and generosity, and who is now terribly missed but will never be forgotten.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Jerry O. Arledge on the occasion of his passing, does record for posterity his outstanding accomplishments and singular contributions, and does further express its enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that he will forever bring to his family, friends, players, and state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Sally Lytton Arledge.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES