

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 65

BY REPRESENTATIVE LACOMBE

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of former Northwestern State University football coach Sam Goodwin.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing, on March 20, 2026, of former Northwestern State University football coach Sam Goodwin; and

WHEREAS, Sam Goodwin was a native of Pineville, Louisiana, and an alumnus of Pineville High School; he was a standout two-way football player who helped lead Pineville to the Class 2A state championship during his senior year; and

WHEREAS, Coach Goodwin played collegiate football and threw the discus at Henderson State University; in 1965, he was an NAIA All-American selection and served as the captain of the football team; outside of football, he was a three-time conference discus champion and set the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference record in the event; and

WHEREAS, Coach Goodwin enjoyed a stellar nine-season coaching run at Parkview High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he won seventy-two percent of his games and led the team to five state championships; and

WHEREAS, following his outstanding high school coaching career, Coach Goodwin spent two seasons as an assistant on Lou Holtz's coaching staff at the University of Arkansas and then moved on to serve for two seasons as head coach of Southern Arkansas University; and

WHEREAS, after his two-year head coaching tenure at Southern Arkansas, he was named head coach at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Coach Goodwin was the architect of Northwestern State University's golden-era of football; he won a school-record one hundred two games over seventeen seasons at the helm of the Demons football program, developed the team into a perennial Southland Conference Championship contender, and set the Southland Conference wins record; and

WHEREAS, Coach Goodwin led the Demons to four conference championships, including the 1984 Gulf Star title and the 1988, 1997, and 1998 Southland Conference titles; he was named Southland Conference Coach of the Year on two occasions; and

WHEREAS, Coach Goodwin coached twenty-two All-Americans, two Academic All-Americans, a National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete, forty-two All-Southland Conference selections, and thirty-eight future NFL players; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from his coaching role at Northwestern State in 2000, Coach Goodwin served as the athletic director of Henderson State University; and

WHEREAS, Coach Goodwin was inducted into the N-Club Hall of Fame, Northwestern State's highest honor for student-athletes and athletic staff, in 1999, and he is a member of the Southland Conference Hall of Honor; and

WHEREAS, Coach Goodwin was named to the AIC All-Decade Team chosen by *Dave Campbell's Arkansas Football* magazine, and he was enshrined in the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame in 2007 for both his playing career and success at the helm of Parkview; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sam Goodwin was an outstanding leader who established himself as a Louisiana and Arkansas football legend, and while he will be deeply missed, his coaching and playing legacy shall live in perpetuity in the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to have known him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of former Northwestern State University football coach Sam Goodwin and does hereby extend sincere wishes that his family, friends, former players, and colleagues find comfort in their shared memories of his inspiring life.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES