

1 the courageous decision to move his family to Monroe to serve as defensive coordinator at
2 Northeast Louisiana University, now known as the University of Louisiana at Monroe, under
3 Head Coach John David Crow, and in 1981, he was named Head Coach Pat Collins; and

4 WHEREAS, during his tenure, he inspired his players to excellence, culminating in
5 the crowning achievement of the 1987 season when his team captured the NCAA Division
6 I-AA National Championship with a victory over the Marshall Thundering Herd football
7 team in Pocatello, Idaho, forever securing his place in Louisiana football history; and

8 WHEREAS, Coach Collins' distinguished career also included service in the
9 Louisiana Secretary of State's office and coaching positions at Arkansas State University,
10 the Miami Tribe, West Ouachita High School, Ouachita High School, and a lengthy and
11 impactful tenure at Longview High School in Longview, Texas, as well as consulting roles
12 at Longview High School and Calvary Baptist Academy in Shreveport; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2015, Coach Collins was rightfully inducted into the Louisiana Sports
14 Hall of Fame in Natchitoches, Louisiana; an honor reflecting a lifetime devoted to athletic
15 excellence, mentorship, and leadership; and

16 WHEREAS, beyond the gridiron, Coach Collins was a devoted husband, father,
17 grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, mentor, and friend, whose strength of character,
18 steadfast faith, and unwavering commitment to family and community defined his life more
19 profoundly than any championship title; and

20 WHEREAS, Coach Collins was preceded in death by his grandson, Christopher Ryan
21 Collins; his parents; his brother and sister-in-law, Jack Frederick Collins and Julia Johnson
22 Collins; his sister-in-law, Candis Slemons Barrientes; and his niece, Sheila Collins Boales;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Coach Collins leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife of sixty-five
25 years, Bonnie Slemons Collins; his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended
26 family, countless former players, colleagues, and friends, all of whom were strengthened and
27 inspired by his leadership, discipline, humor, and enduring love; and

28 WHEREAS, the citizens of Louisiana are grateful for the legacy of excellence and
29 integrity he leaves behind, and the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that his influence will
30 continue to echo through the lives of the many young men he coached and mentored

