

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATORS CATHEY, BARROW, EDMONDS, HENRY, JACKSON-ANDREWS,
KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, MCMATH, MIGUEZ, MILLER, MIZELL,
MORRIS, MYERS, OWEN, PRESSLY, WHEAT AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of
Coach Pat Collins.

WHEREAS, it is with deep sorrow that we have learned of the passing of Coach Pat
Collins, who departed this life on February 12, 2026, at the age of eighty-four; and

WHEREAS, Patrick "Pat" Collins was born on August 20, 1941, in Shreveport,
Louisiana, to the late Jack Henry Collins and Grace Ada Scheffler Collins, and from an early
age embraced the guiding principle instilled by his father - nothing in this world is free and
success is earned through hard work and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, a 1959 graduate of Fair Park High School, Pat earned a football
scholarship to Louisiana Tech University, where he later completed his master's degree and
began a storied coaching career that would leave an indelible mark on collegiate and high
school athletics; and

WHEREAS, after beginning his coaching career at Airline High School, he returned
to Louisiana Tech University as defensive coordinator under Head Coach Maxie Lambright,
contributing to seasons remembered as the "Glory Years" of Louisiana Tech University
football; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, following Coach Lambright's retirement, Coach Collins made
the courageous decision to move his family to Monroe to serve as defensive coordinator at

Northeast Louisiana University, now known as the University of Louisiana at Monroe, under Head Coach John David Crow, and in 1981, he was named Head Coach Pat Collins; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its deepest condolences to the family of Coach Pat Collins, honoring his extraordinary life of service, leadership, and devotion to family, faith, and football.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Coach Pat Collins as an expression of the Senate's heartfelt sympathy and enduring respect.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES