



1           WHEREAS, that iconic home run was Morris's only home run of the 1996 season,  
2           as he had previously suffered a broken hamate bone in his right wrist and missed thirty-nine  
3           games following surgery before returning late in the season to help lead LSU to the  
4           championship; and

5           WHEREAS, the historic moment and the story of Morris's perseverance and triumph  
6           have been chronicled by ESPN as part of the acclaimed Southeastern Conference storied  
7           episode titled "The Walk Off", highlighting the significance of his accomplishment within  
8           the tradition of Southeastern Conference athletics; and

9           WHEREAS, Morris began his collegiate career at LSU as a walk-on after graduating  
10          from Bolton High School, initially redshirting and transitioning from the outfield to second  
11          base; and

12          WHEREAS, during his sophomore season, Morris emerged as one of the top players  
13          in the conference, earning second-team All-American and All-SEC honors after leading LSU  
14          in batting average (.369), runs scored (70), hits (93), stolen bases (18), and on-base  
15          percentage (.481), and earning first-team Academic All-American recognition; and

16          WHEREAS, he was selected to represent the United States on the United States  
17          national baseball team in 1995, finishing third on the team in batting average and  
18          demonstrating exceptional leadership as the leadoff hitter; and

19          WHEREAS, despite injury challenges during his junior season, Morris returned to  
20          help LSU dominate late in the year, as the Tigers compiled a perfect 22-0 record in games  
21          he started in 1996 and he led the team in hitting during the NCAA Tournament with a .433  
22          average; and

23          WHEREAS, Morris later represented the United States in the 1996 Summer  
24          Olympics, where he led the team in batting with a .409 average and helping Team USA  
25          capture the bronze medal; and

26          WHEREAS, following his collegiate career, Morris was selected in the fifth round  
27          of the 1996 Major League Baseball Draft by the Texas Rangers and he later made his Major  
28          League debut in 1999 with the Pittsburgh Pirates, finishing third in voting for National  
29          League Rookie of the Year Award after batting .288 with fifteen home runs and  
30          seventy-three runs batted in; and

