

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

BY SENATORS SEABAUGH, BARROW, BARTHELEMY, BOUDREAUX, CATHEY, EDMONDS, HENRY, JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MIZELL, MORRIS, MYERS, PRESSLY, PRICE, REESE, SELDERS, STINE AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Warren Morris upon receiving the 2026 Louisiana Sports Ambassador Award and on being inducted into the 2026 class of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Sports Writers Association established the Ambassador Award to recognize individuals who have made long-term exemplary contributions to the perception of Louisiana through their ties to the state's sports landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Ambassador Award is not bestowed annually, but rather on occasion, as determined by the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee and, this year, the Selection Committee has selected Warren Morris as the third recipient of this esteemed award; and

WHEREAS, Warren Morris, a native and resident of Alexandria, earned national recognition as a member of the Louisiana State University (LSU) Tigers baseball program and became forever associated with one of the most dramatic finishes in the history of the College World Series; and

WHEREAS, on June 8, 1996, Morris delivered a legendary two-out, two-run walk-off home run to secure the national championship for LSU, providing LSU with a dramatic victory in the 1996 College World Series and cementing his place in the annals of college baseball history; and

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

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

the tradition of Southeastern Conference athletics; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Morris went on to play parts of five seasons in major league baseball before retiring from professional baseball and returning to his hometown of Alexandria, where he has remained active in the community while working in the banking industry and supporting numerous civic and charitable causes; and

WHEREAS, while in high school, Morris earned letters in baseball, basketball, and cross-country and, in recognition of his achievements and lasting legacy, he was selected in 2024 as an inaugural inductee into the Bolton High School Hall of Fame.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Warren Morris upon receiving the 2026 Louisiana Sports Ambassador Award and on being inducted into the 2026 class of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Warren Morris.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES