

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY SENATORS SEABAUGH, BOUDREAUX, HENRY, JACKSON-ANDREWS,
JENKINS, LUNEAU, MORRIS, PRESSLY, PRICE AND STINE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate John James Marshall upon receiving the 2026 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and on being inducted into the 2026 class of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in Natchitoches, Louisiana, each year collaborates with the Louisiana Sports Writers Association in selecting a limited number of sports figures who embody the character, skill, and talent worthy of being named to the hall of fame; and

WHEREAS, the Distinguished Service Award is the most prestigious honor offered to sports media in the state and recipients are carefully chosen after an extensive deliberation by a forty-member expert panel based on their professional accomplishments in local, state, regional, and national arenas; and

WHEREAS, John James Marshall is the recipient of the 2026 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and a member of the 2026 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class; and

WHEREAS, John James Marshall, a native of Shreveport, has dedicated more than five decades to sports journalism and broadcasting, becoming one of the most respected and versatile voices in Louisiana sports media; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Marshall began his career in local media in 1974 at the age of fifteen when he started covering American Legion baseball games for the *Shreveport Times*, demonstrating an early passion for storytelling and sports reporting that would define his professional life; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Louisiana Tech University in 1981, where he served as sports editor of *The Tech Talk*, Mr. Marshall began his professional career with the *Shreveport Journal* and rose to become executive sports editor in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Marshall and his brother, Ben Marshall, have achieved recognition

in broadcasting, twice winning the LSWA's Best Radio Show award for their program *SportsTalk with Bonzai Ben and JJ* on 50,000-watt KWKH-AM and holds the distinction of being the longest-running sports talk radio show in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, following the closing of the *Shreveport Journal* in 1991, Mr. Marshall joined the *Shreveport Times* and continued his work in sports journalism before ultimately choosing to pursue his growing radio career; and

WHEREAS, despite not entering the LSWA writing contest for twenty-seven years, Mr. Marshall has earned multiple awards in recent years for his writing with the *Shreveport-Bossier Journal*; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his distinguished career, Mr. Marshall has been recognized repeatedly for excellence in journalism, earning four Louisiana Sports Writers Association (LSWA) Prep Writer of the Year awards, two LSWA Columnist of the Year honors, and the LSWA Story of the Year award in 2023; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Marshall's career has included numerous accomplishments across several forms of media, including winning a national Associated Press Sports Editors Best Feature Sports Story award in 1987 and earning two Council for Advancement and Support of Education awards for documentary video production and storytelling; and

WHEREAS, he has served as a play-by-play announcer in both radio and television for professional football with the Canadian Football League's Shreveport Pirates and for NCAA Division I basketball with Centenary College, and contributing to the fan experience as a public address announcer for the Shreveport Captains for eight years and as a part-time public address announcer for the Houston Astros; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Marshall has served as media director and instructor at Loyola College Prep, his alma mater, for twenty-nine years, and his connection to Loyola College Prep extends beyond journalism and education, as he was a standout student-athlete, serving as quarterback for the school's 1976 Class 3A state championship football team and earning All-City honors as a third baseman in baseball; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his many contributions to journalism, broadcasting, athletics, and education, Mr. Marshall was inducted into the Loyola College Prep Hall of Honor in 2014 and the baseball press box at the school bears his name; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Marshall's service to Louisiana sports journalism has included leadership roles within the Louisiana Sports Writers Association, where he became the youngest individual ever elected president at the age of thirty-one and where he continues to serve on the organization's Hall of Fame committee; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, Mr. Marshall's outstanding career and dedication to sports media were fittingly recognized with his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate John James Marshall upon receiving the 2026 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism 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 John James Marshall.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES