

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY SENATORS SEABAUGH, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, CATHEY, EDMONDS,  
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PRICE, SELDERS AND STINE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Sylvia Fowles on being inducted into the 2026 class of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

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

WHEREAS, the 2026 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class includes Sylvia Fowles; and

WHEREAS, Sylvia Fowles, a native of Miami, Florida, has distinguished herself as one of the most dominant and accomplished players in the history of women's basketball, earning global recognition for her exceptional athletic ability, leadership, and dedication to excellence; and

WHEREAS, standing six feet six inches tall, the McDonald's All-American center became a cornerstone of the women's basketball program at Louisiana State University (LSU), where she helped lead the LSU Tigers women's basketball to four consecutive appearances in the national semifinals of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament from 2005 through 2008; and

WHEREAS, during her remarkable collegiate career, the Tigers compiled an outstanding record of 129 wins and 22 losses, and Fowles averaged a double-double across her four seasons with 15.5 points and 10.9 rebounds per game and shot an impressive 58.4 percent from the field; and

WHEREAS, she steadily improved throughout her collegiate career, averaging 11.8 points and 9.0 rebounds as a freshman, 15.9 points and 11.6 rebounds as a sophomore, 16.9 points and 12.6 rebounds as a junior, and 17.4 points and 10.3 rebounds as a senior, while also averaging 2.2 blocked shots and 1.5 steals per game over 144 career contests; and

WHEREAS, Fowles earned first-team All-American honors as both a junior and

senior and, in 2008, she was named Southeastern Conference Player of the Year, Southeastern Conference Defensive Player of the Year, and National Defensive Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, selected as the second overall pick in the 2008 WNBA Draft, Fowles enjoyed an extraordinary fifteen-year professional career in the Women's National Basketball Association with the Chicago Sky and the Minnesota Lynx, becoming an eight-time All-Star and one of the league's most dominant centers; and

WHEREAS, she helped lead the Minnesota Lynx to WNBA championships in 2015 and 2017, earning Finals Most Valuable Player honors in both title runs and later receiving the league's Most Valuable Player award in 2017, while also being named WNBA Defensive Player of the Year four times and earning three selections to the All-WNBA First Team; and

WHEREAS, over the course of her professional career, Fowles averaged 15.7 points and 9.8 rebounds per game while setting a WNBA record by shooting 59.9 percent from the field across 408 games and establishing herself as one of the league's greatest rebounders and defenders, retiring as the WNBA's all-time leader in rebounds per game and with 4,006 total rebounds; and

WHEREAS, internationally, she represented the United States with distinction as a member of United States women's national basketball team, winning four Olympic gold medals at the 2008 Summer Olympics, 2012 Summer Olympics, 2016 Summer Olympics, and 2020 Summer Olympics; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her historic contributions to the sport, she was named in 2021 among the WNBA's Top 25 Players of All Time, honoring the league's most influential athletes during its first twenty-five seasons; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana State University retired her No. 34 jersey in 2017, an honor shared by only one other LSU women's basketball legend, and, in 2023, the Minnesota Lynx likewise retired her number in recognition of her extraordinary impact; and

WHEREAS, beyond her achievements on the court, Fowles has demonstrated a deep commitment to community service, founding the Sylvia Fowles Family Fund in 2010 to assist children in need and serving as a spokesperson for Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy; and

WHEREAS, through her remarkable athletic accomplishments, her leadership, and her dedication to charitable causes, Sylvia Fowles has brought great pride to the state of Louisiana and has secured her place among the greatest players in the history of basketball.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Sylvia Fowles 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 Sylvia Fowles.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES