

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 119

BY SENATORS LUNEAU, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARTHELEMY, BASS, BOUDREAUX, CLOUD, EDMONDS, FESI, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HODGES, JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, LAMBERT, MCMATH, MIGUEZ, MILLER, MIZELL, MORRIS, OWEN, PRESSLY, PRICE, SEABAUGH, STINE, TALBOT, WHEAT AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors to name the LSU Gymnastics Training Center for Legendary LSU Gymnastics Coach "D-D" Breaux.

WHEREAS, Sara "D-D" Breaux was born and raised in Donaldsonville, Louisiana and competed as a gymnast headed for the Olympics before an injury changed the course of her career; and

WHEREAS, in 1977 she became the first full-time LSU Women's Gymnastics Coach where she found a program with no resources, little respect and an uphill battle for survival; and

WHEREAS, Coach Breaux fought many battles that included threatened program elimination, elimination of her assistant coaches and staff, no or little promotional support, no basic resources such as competition leotards, and an inadequate and dangerous facility for the first 39 years of her career; and

WHEREAS, Coach Breaux fought for all Women's Sports and Athletes on the LSU campus; and

WHEREAS, Coach Breaux knew that in order to establish a championship program that would be sustainable, she needed a world class facility, community support and attendance at her meets and resources to recruit and compete promising athletes; and

WHEREAS, with the appointment of Skip Bertman as athletic director, support for the program began to build; and

WHEREAS, in order to compete with her SEC and national competitors, Coach Breaux had to have the same amount and quality of equipment as other institutions did in order to maximize the practice time on each event allowed by the NCAA and so she sought out every possible source of funds necessary for a competitive facility and equipment; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, she convinced the Tiger Athletic Foundation and the school's athletic director to have a groundbreaking to convince donors that a facility would be built and that would assist to attract donors and instill a belief in the community that this would be done; and

WHEREAS, Coach Breaux's efforts were successful in bringing a world class facility to LSU which was celebrated on February 16, 2016, with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the LSU Gymnastics Training Center; and

WHEREAS, for decades Coach Breaux pursued her vision for attendance by appearing on the Buckskin Bill Show for a segment on exercise at 6:00 a.m., placing schedules at cash registers throughout the city, handing out tickets to gymnastic events in grocery store parking lots all in an effort to go from a few hundred gymnastic fans to sellout crowds; and

WHEREAS, as attendance grew, she saw her vision realized and culminated when the gymnastics program had its first sell-out crowd of 13,296 on March 14, 2016, for a meet against Alabama which was about one month after the above-mentioned ribbon cutting ceremony. On January 19, 2018, the program had a standing room only meet with 13,729 in attendance; and

WHEREAS, it is undeniable that the championship program and the world class facility that exist today is a result of the tenacity, vision, courage and unshakeable enthusiasm of Coach "D-D" Breaux; and

WHEREAS, Coach Breaux's unwavering dedication to her mission and the university she loves enabled her to overcome many obstacles to assist in developing a gymnastics program whose numerous achievements in her 43 year tenure include: qualifying for 30 NCAA Championships, winning 15 Individual National Championships, winning 19 Regional titles, receiving 266 All-American Honors, receiving 160 Scholastic All-Americans, winning 6 SEC Championships, producing 22 SEC Champions with 44 SEC

Titles; and

WHEREAS, during her last five years of coaching, the LSU Gymnastics team earned National Championship Runners Up three times (2016, 2017, 2019); and

WHEREAS, in Coach Breaux's last three seasons, LSU won the regular season competition and the SEC Championship (2017, 2018 and 2019); and

WHEREAS, Coach Breaux has been inducted into numerous Halls of Fame including the Louisiana Sportswriters Hall of Fame, named an SEC Trailblazer for Women's Athletics and was the National Coach of the Year two times, SEC Coach of the Year six times and Regional Coach of the Year nine times; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 LPB named "D-D" Breaux a Louisiana legend acknowledging her creation of a championship team and her efforts to build a world class gymnastics' facility; and

WHEREAS, four years after the world class facility was opened in 2016 and after securing sellout crowds, a national powerhouse status for the LSU gymnastics program and endowed scholarships, Coach Breaux believed the program was in a sustainable position at LSU and retired in 2020; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, after her retirement from coaching, the LSU Alumni Association bestowed their highest honor on Coach Breaux by naming her the LSU Alumnus of the Year; and

WHEREAS, this legislature and governors have honored her and her teams for their many accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Coach Breaux continues to serve as an ambassador for the LSU Athletics Department and volunteers her time as Chair of the Advisory Council for the Department of Human Science and Education, member of the Ready Start Network in Ascension Parish for Early Learning, member of the LSU College of Coast and Environment Advisory Council, the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, and serves on the board of Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, ESPN chose Coach Breaux's unique and inspiring story for their SEC Storied series describing Breaux as a "relentless trailblazer whose career mirrors the evolution of women's collegiate athletics"; and

WHEREAS, in the film which premiered nationally on February 13, 2026, aptly named "The Fighting Tiger", the ESPN summary states that Coach Breaux fought "against institutional indifference, built community support, and pushed for equity as Title IX reshaped the landscape, eventually transforming LSU from a struggling team practicing in a cramped, outdated gym into a SEC Championship program and national powerhouse...and answers the question, can one person unequivocally make a difference?"; and

WHEREAS, the directors of the film Lisa Lax and Nancy Stern Winters, who spent almost a year researching, conducting interviews and filming in Louisiana in 2025, stated that "D-D Breaux defines the ability to simply get things done. Her infectious energy is only outshined by her engaging enthusiasm. To sustain this optimum level of passion and purpose-filled work over four decades is beyond imagination. We are in awe."; and

WHEREAS, by naming this facility for Coach Breaux we create a permanent reminder to anyone, especially young women, that one person can make a difference and can overcome tremendous odds to achieve their goals.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors name the LSU Gymnastics Center for this Louisiana legend and that the facility be named the Coach "D-D" Breaux Gymnastics Training Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Wade Rouse, President of Louisiana State University and Lee Mallett, Chairman of the LSU Board of Supervisors.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE