

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 160

BY SENATOR LONG AND REPRESENTATIVES BROWN AND COX

COMMENDATIONS. Commends and congratulates Thomas Milton "Tom" Benson for being named into the 2014 Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Thomas Milton "Tom" Benson on being named to the 2014 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the citizens of the state have learned of the prestigious honor bestowed upon Thomas Milton "Tom" Benson upon his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, the inductees are chosen after extensive deliberations by an expert panel of Louisiana Sports Writers' Association members from across the state who annually consider more than one hundred twenty nominees for this honor; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Milton "Tom" Benson was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on July 12, 1927; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from high school he served in the United States Navy, after which he returned home to New Orleans to attend Loyola University where he graduated with an accounting degree in 1948, and then pursued a career in the automotive industry and eventually become an owner of several successful car dealerships; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, when he learned that the New Orleans Saints was on the verge of being sold to out of state interests, Mr. Benson came to the rescue and salvaged the franchise, preserving an important economic and cultural engine of the city and state; and

1 WHEREAS, under his leadership the Saints developed into an international sensation
2 with their first division title in 1991, first playoff victory in 2000, and first NFL title in 2009
3 after the Saints took a 37 to 17 win over the Indianapolis Colts in Super Bowl XLIV on
4 February 7, 2010, a day that will remain historic in the hearts of many Saints fans around the
5 world; and

6 WHEREAS, he has been instrumental in helping bring five Super Bowls to the city,
7 served on numerous NFL committees, and operated the New Orleans VooDoo of the Arena
8 Football League from 2002 until 2008; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2012, he surprised the sports world by purchasing the New Orleans
10 Hornets basketball team, renamed them the Pelicans, and developed them into one of the
11 most exciting and competitive teams in the National Basketball League; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Benson has played an important part in the sports culture and
13 economic development of the state and the city of New Orleans and has earned his place
14 among the other legends of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16 commend and congratulate Thomas Milton "Tom" Benson on being named to the 2014
17 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
19 Thomas Milton "Tom" Benson.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by McHenry Lee.

DIGEST

Long

SCR No. 160

Commends Thomas Milton "Tom" Benson on being named to the 2014 Louisiana Sports
Hall of Fame Induction Class.