

2015 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY SENATOR ALARIO AND REPRESENTATIVES KLECKLEY AND LEGER

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Jim Hawthorne on his retirement and on 35 years as the legendary "Voice of the Tigers" at LSU football, baseball, and mens basketball athletic competitions.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Jim Hawthorne on his retirement after thirty-two years as the legendary "Voice of the Tigers" at Louisiana State University football, baseball, and men's basketball athletic competitions.

WHEREAS, Jim Hawthorne has been on the radio calling thousands of athletic events for the Louisiana State University Fighting Tigers for the past thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, he has announced his upcoming retirement from the position of Director of Broadcasting following the 2015-2016 basketball season; and

WHEREAS, Jim Hawthorne is a native of Anacoco, Louisiana, and a 1967 graduate of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS, his first play-by-play job was in 1961 at Leesville High School where he called games for the Wampus Cats football team; and

WHEREAS, he first joined the LSU broadcast team as a play-by-play commentator for men's basketball for the 1979-1980 season, began calling football and baseball in 1984, and has continued to call those three sports since that time; and

WHEREAS, as the "Voice of the Tigers", Jim has broadcast all six of LSU's national championships in baseball, two national titles in football, and three Final Four appearances for the mens basketball team; and

1 WHEREAS, in the course of his illustrious career with LSU, Hawthorne has not
2 missed an LSU football game, broadcasting three hundred eighty straight football games,
3 which include the 2003, 2007, and 2011 Bowl Championship Series games and the
4 Southeastern Conference championship games played in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2011;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Jim has called three Final Four basketball competitions for the Tigers
7 in 1981, 1986, and 2011, along with five SEC championships, and called games involving
8 LSU standouts, and future professional basketball players, Shaquille O'Neal, Chris Jackson,
9 Glen Davis, Stromile Swift, Brandon Brass, Rudy Macklin, and many others; and

10 WHEREAS, as the announcer for Tiger Baseball, he called all fifty-seven games in
11 the College World Series, including the unforgettable Warren Morris walk-off home run to
12 win the title game in the 1996 College World Series; and

13 WHEREAS, he was behind the microphone for the "Earthquake Game" in 1988,
14 LSU's 28-21 upset of No. 1 Florida in 1997, the "Bluegrass Miracle" in 2002, and the
15 "Game of the Century" in 2011 when the top-ranked Tigers kicked a field goal in overtime
16 to beat the University of Alabama Crimson Tide by a score of 9-6 in Tuscaloosa; and

17 WHEREAS, in addition to his role at LSU, Jim has held play-by-play jobs at
18 Northwestern State University and Centenary College, as well as calling games for Texas
19 League baseball and the World Football League where he worked alongside talk show
20 legend Larry King; and

21 WHEREAS, the vice chancellor and director of athletics at LSU, Joe Alleva, said of
22 Jim Hawthorne, "When you hear Jim's voice, you immediately think LSU. That's the mark
23 of a great play-by-play man. His passion and enthusiasm for LSU translates into his
24 broadcast and he has the innate ability to paint a picture about what's happening on each play
25 that makes the listener feel as if they are part of the action."; and

26 WHEREAS, Jim was named the recipient of the 2015 Chris Schenkel Award, which
27 is the most prestigious and highest honor in college sports broadcasting and is presented by
28 the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame to a sports broadcaster who has
29 had a long and distinguished career broadcasting college football; and

30 WHEREAS, in addition to his announcing skills, he is also an accomplished singer

1 who was master of ceremonies and a singer on the "Louisiana Hayride" country and western
2 music show on KWKH in Shreveport, and who occasionally performs at local venues; and

3 WHEREAS, Jim performed the national anthem in front of a packed Alex Box
4 Stadium on Saturday, May 9, 2015, and received a rousing ovation from the crowd; and

5 WHEREAS, upon his retirement from LSU, Jim plans to spend more time with his
6 son, Joseph William; his daughters, Jaime Lynn and Amanda Ruth; his two grandsons, two
7 granddaughters, and great-granddaughter, and he is looking forward to traveling with his
8 wife and best friend, Carol; and

9 WHEREAS, Jim Hawthorne merits a special measure of commendation for his
10 outstanding accomplishments and his enduring legacy that will forever continue to be a
11 source of tremendous pride for the innumerable players, coworkers, and fans whose lives he
12 touched during his unforgettable career at Louisiana State University.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby
14 commends Jim Hawthorne upon his retirement from Louisiana State University as the
15 legendary "Voice of the Tigers", expresses to him sincere appreciation for the honor he has
16 brought to the state of Louisiana, and extends to him best wishes for continued success in
17 all of his future endeavors.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
19 Jim Hawthorne.

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

	DIGEST	
SCR 116 Original	2015 Regular Session	Alario
Commends Jim Hawthorne on his retirement and on 35 years as the legendary "Voice of the Tigers" at LSU football, baseball, and mens basketball athletic competitions.		