

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 298

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAINES

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Southern University baseball team upon winning the 2019 Southwestern Athletic Conference Western Division championship.

WHEREAS, the Southern University Jaguars baseball team opened the 2019 season with a perfect 3-0 record in the Andre Dawson Classic by defeating Florida A&M, Grambling State, and Alcorn State; with triumphs over Eastern Illinois, Northwestern State, Memphis, Southern University New Orleans, and nationally ranked Louisiana State University, the Jaguars's season culminated in the program's first Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Western Division title; the 2019 win over LSU was the first one at Southern's home field in the series between the Tigers and the SU Jaguars; and

WHEREAS, with a conference record of 17-6 and a first place finish in the Western Division, Southern University's Jaguars entered the SWAC tournament at Wesley Barrow Stadium as the No. 1 seed; six players were named to All-SWAC teams, four of whom made the first team; with a record of 4-0 and seven saves during the regular season, Connor Whalen received the Relief Pitcher of the Year Award; and third baseman Tyler LaPorte was co-Player of the Year and made the first team All-SWAC; LaPorte also was named by Collegiate Baseball to the All American third team; and

WHEREAS, in his second season as head coach, Kerrick Jackson guided the Southern University baseball team in a remarkable turnaround; the Jaguars went from a total of nine wins in 2018 to thirty-two wins in 2019; the team earned its first SWAC Western Division title since 2012, and Coach Jackson was named 2019 SWAC Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the well-deserved title the Southern University Jaguars have earned; to commend the team for the ability it has displayed, particularly at the most difficult level of competition; and to express sincere and heartfelt

congratulations to the team members and coaching staff for the merits earned and the sportsmanship shown while achieving a crowning moment in Southwestern Athletic Conference baseball and attaining the highest honor possible for Southern University.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the athletes and coaches of the Southern University Jaguars baseball team upon winning the 2019 Southwestern Athletic Conference Western Division championship, capping off a truly spectacular season, and does hereby recognize the team's outstanding performance and the pride and honor it has brought to its school and community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Head Coach Kerrick Jackson.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES