

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45

BY SENATORS CORTEZ, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, JOHNS, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, PETERSON, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, TARVER, WARD, WHITE AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Ed Orgeron, head coach of the Louisiana State University Fighting Tigers football team on an undefeated 2019-2020 season, leading the Tigers to a national championship, and being the recipient of numerous coaching awards and accolades.

WHEREAS, Edward James Orgeron Jr., "Coach O", as he is fondly referred to, was born to Edward "Ba Ba" Orgeron Sr. and Cornelia "Co Co" Orgeron, and grew up with his brother, Steve, in Larose, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, of Cajun descent, he attended South Lafourche High School in Galliano, Louisiana, where he played on the Class 4A state championship team in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Coach O signed to play football at Louisiana State University, but left the program after his first year and transferred to Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Coach O began coaching in 1984 as a graduate assistant at Northwestern State University and the following year, coached at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he then served two years as an assistant strength coach at the University of Arkansas, and in 1988, began his tenure with the University of Miami as the defensive line coach as the Hurricanes garnered a national championship in 1989; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Coach O took a respite from coaching and in 1994, returned as a volunteer linebacker coach at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the following year, he moved from the south to the northeastern United States, accepting a job at Syracuse University with Head Coach Paul Pasqualoni, whom he credits with developing his coaching skills on and off the field, and where he coached the defensive line for three years; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Coach O was hired by the University of Southern California

to coach the Trojans' defensive line, took on the added responsibility of recruiting coordinator in 2001, and was named assistant head coach in 2003 as the Trojans won a national championship along with LSU; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, he was hired as the head coach at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss), and in January, 2008, became the defensive line coach for the New Orleans Saints; and

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2008, Coach O accepted a position with the University of Tennessee as associate head coach, recruiting coordinator, and defensive line coach; and

WHEREAS, he returned to USC's assistant coaching staff in 2010, and in 2013, became the interim head coach of the Trojans for the remainder of the season, posting a 6-2 record; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2015, Coach O was hired as the defensive line coach at LSU, and on September 25, 2016, after head coach Les Miles was terminated following a loss to Auburn, he was named the interim head coach; and

WHEREAS, under his guidance, LSU finished out the season with a 6–2 record, and on November 26, 2016, LSU removed the "interim" tag from Coach O's title and formally named him as its thirty-second full-time head coach; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Coach O, the Tigers finished the 2017 season with a record of 9-4; and

WHEREAS, with a 9-3 record in 2018, the Tigers were invited to the Fiesta Bowl and finished the season 10-3, were ranked sixth in the nation by the AP Poll and seventh by the Coaches Poll, and earned Coach O a contract extension through the 2022 season; and

WHEREAS, after opening with a home win versus Georgia Southern University to begin the 2019 season, the Tigers recorded a statement road win over the University of Texas in week two and proceeded to go undefeated through the regular season, including a 46-41 victory over the University of Alabama at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa; and

WHEREAS, a win over the University of Arkansas Razorbacks in the penultimate game of the regular season clinched the SEC West division title and secured a berth in the 2019 SEC Championship Game against the University of Georgia Bulldogs, the Tigers' first appearance and win since 2011, posting a 37-10 score; and

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2019, the Tigers were named the number one seed in the College Football Playoffs, met the University of Oklahoma Sooners in the semifinals in the Peach Bowl, and defeated them by a score of 63-28; and

WHEREAS, on January 13th, 2020, Coach O won his first national championship as a head coach with a win over the Clemson Tigers by a score of 42-25 in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans, completing a perfect season; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership and inspiration of Coach O, the Tigers set team, league, conference, and national records while posting a 15-0 record, defeating seven top ten teams, validating recognition that the 2019 Tigers were the best collegiate football team ever; and

WHEREAS, Coach O received the AFCA Coach of the Year Award, the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award, the Walter Camp Coach of the Year Award, and the Paul "Bear" Bryant Coach of the Year Award, and was named AP Coach of the Year, Home Depot Coach of the Year, and SEC Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Ed Orgeron, one of Louisiana's finest sons, merits a special measure of commendation for his achievements as the head coach of the LSU Tigers during the 2019-2020 season and for being an ambassador for the great state of Louisiana as he proclaims "Geaux Tigers".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Ed Orgeron, head coach of the Louisiana State University Fighting Tigers football team, on an undefeated 2019-2020 season, leading the Tigers to a national championship, and being the recipient of numerous coaching awards and accolades, and does hereby record for posterity the pride and honor that he brings to his family, friends, the faculty and students at Louisiana State University, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Ed Orgeron.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES