

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 124

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD AND SENATOR LONG

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Florien High School girls' softball team on winning the 2013 Class B state championship.

WHEREAS, the Florien High School girls' softball team won the 2013 Louisiana High School Athletic Association Fast Pitch 56 Class B state championship and it is appropriate to commend them on an outstanding and historic season; and

WHEREAS, the Florien softball team finished the 2012-2013 season with a 26-4 record and beat 4A powers Neville and West Ouachita; and

WHEREAS, the members of the team performed at the highest level of excellence throughout the 2012-2013 season and playoffs, and each of these great Lady Cats deserves recognition for her vital contribution to the winning effort; and

WHEREAS, starting pitcher Abbey McMillian, who pitched the team to the state title while leading the team in hitting, and Haylee Tidwell, who was the big hitter in the Lady Cats' 5-4 semifinal win against Grace Christian, both displayed immense calm under pressure and are to be commended for their roles in the team's championship title; and

WHEREAS, Adrianna Phillips also merits a special measure of commendation for taking on a leadership role in the team's title win against Anacoco, collecting four runs batted in after sparking a rally against Grace Christian with a double off the fence; and

WHEREAS, the title run by the Lady Cats is particularly significant and improbable due to the youth of the team: the starting lineup includes a sophomore, five freshmen, two eighth graders, and a pair of outfielders a year removed from elementary school; and

WHEREAS, the amazing accomplishments of the team could not have been achieved without the guidance and skills of head coach Bruce Stewart, who won his first state championship as a head coach after twenty-nine years of coaching baseball and softball at

Winnfield and Leesville, as well as all of the other individuals who have contributed to the success of the school's softball program; and

WHEREAS, twelve-year-old freshman shortstop Ryleigh Rutherford's grandfather, Mike Dunn, passed away at the start of the season, and his death served as inspiration to the championship run by the Lady Cats and the team dedicated their win to his legacy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dunn, who was referred to as Papa by the entire team, was a huge supporter of Florien softball and announced batters at home games, and in his memory, the team wore white armbands and gave the thumbs-up sign when his granddaughter Ryleigh came to bat and pointed their fingers toward the sky; and

WHEREAS, the team's outstanding 2012-2013 season upholds the glorious tradition of the Lady Cats, and all Florien High School alumni and fans recognize the immense pride and distinguished honor that the team brings to its school, community, and state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Florien High School girls' softball team upon winning the 2013 Class B state championship and does hereby extend best wishes to the players, coaches, and everyone involved with this exceptional softball program as they celebrate their extraordinary and historic season and prepare for continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Bruce Stewart, head coach of the Lady Cats.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE