

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 95

BY REPRESENTATIVE AUSTIN BADON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Frank Garnett upon his induction into the Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame in July of 2011.

WHEREAS, over the years, Grambling State University has had many great athletes who have made a significant impact on the world of sports, and Frank Garnett is one of these extraordinary sports legends; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2011, Mr. Garnett is being inducted into the Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame in its third annual induction ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garnett is a graduate of St. Augustine High School in New Orleans, where he was a star athlete in both basketball and baseball, and Grambling State University, where he was the baseball team's captain for three years and an All-Southwest Athletic Conference (SWAC) first team selection for four years in three different positions: first baseman, third baseman, and shortstop; in 1961 and 1962, his team was the runner-up for the national championship title, and in 1963, he was first team All-American (third baseman) and All-Tournament first team (third baseman) and led the nation in both home runs and runs batted in; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Mr. Garnett's great success in baseball continued when he was signed by the Washington Senators, and he spent seven years playing professional baseball before retiring due to injuries; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his outstanding achievements as a player at Grambling and his amazing career in professional baseball, before his retirement in 2009, Mr. Garnett was a widely beloved educator and coach for many years, primarily in California; and

WHEREAS, before moving to California, Mr. Garnett was one of the first clinical instructors for the Capital City Kids Baseball Clinic in Baton Rouge in 1964, and he also taught mathematics at two New Orleans high schools, McDonough #35 High School and George Washington Carver High School; and

WHEREAS, after relocating to the Los Angeles area, Mr. Garnett taught at Los Angeles High School, Crenshaw High School, and Manual Arts High School, and for three years, he was pivotal to the success of the theater and dance program at Venice High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garnett made history as the first African American head coach in the Los Angeles Unified School District and the first African American baseball coach at the college level in California; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garnett served as the head baseball coach and chair of the department of health and physical education at Los Angeles Southwest College, and he also served as a National Youth Sports Program instructor and was a co-founder of Strategies for the Development of the African-American Manchild; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2009, Mr. Garnett retired from Los Angeles Southwest College after more than forty years of dedicated and highly effective service as an educator and coach; and

WHEREAS, though he is a longtime California resident, Mr. Garnett has deep roots in his home state of Louisiana and is a very active alumnus of his alma maters, serving as a life member of the Grambling University National Alumni Association and as vice president of Friends of St. Augustine; and

WHEREAS, Frank Garnett, one of Louisiana's finest sons, merits a special measure of commendation for his singular achievements upon the memorable and historic occasion of his well deserved induction into the Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Frank Garnett upon his induction into the Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame in July of 2011, does hereby recognize and record for posterity his exceptional accomplishments and contributions as an athlete, educator, coach, and citizen, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that he brings to his family, friends, and community, to St. Augustine High School and Grambling State

University, to the city of New Orleans, to the states of Louisiana and California, and to the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Frank Garnett.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE