

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 196

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend James Jones, great pro basketball player, upon the occasion of his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame was established in 1958 and was intended, in the words of Otis Harris, sports editor of the *Shreveport Journal*, to be "the Louisiana Hall of Fame – a hall of fame for the state's greatest athletes, men or women, amateur or professional, living or dead;" and

WHEREAS, though the Hall of Fame was begun over fifty years ago, it is only this year that it has a permanent and appropriate home to recognize Louisiana's greatest sports heroes, for on Friday, June 28, 2013, the grand opening will be held for the stunning twenty-three million dollar Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum in the National Historic District of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS, among the remarkable class of honorees to be inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame on Saturday, June 29, 2013, is Tallulah native James Jones, a man who truly meets the standard for the Hall of Fame advanced in 1950 that still abides today, for James Jones is surely one of the state's greatest athletes; and

WHEREAS, James Jones was the star of three consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference championship basketball teams at Grambling State University and became one of the best players in the old American Basketball Association (ABA); and

WHEREAS, during his undergraduate career at Grambling State University, Mr. Jones averaged twenty points and eight rebounds in one hundred four games for Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame coach Fred Hobdy and is a member of the Grambling Legends Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, James Jones was the thirteenth overall pick in the second round of the 1967 NBA draft, selected by the Baltimore Bullets, but chose the ABA and made the ABA's All-Rookie Team in 1968; and

WHEREAS, James Jones averaged 19.2 points, 5.1 assists, and 4.9 rebounds per game during seven years in the ABA, and he became only the second ABA player to score over two thousand points in a single season, finishing his 1968-1969 season with a total of 2,050 points; and

WHEREAS, James Jones was a three-time first-team All-ABA selection in 1969, 1973, and 1974 while playing for the New Orleans Buccaneers, the Memphis Pros, and the Utah Stars; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones was named to the ABA All-Time Team, led the ABA in free throw aim (.884) in the 1973-1974 season, and scored in double figures in five of his six ABA All-Star games; and

WHEREAS, James Jones also played three seasons with Washington in the NBA, and his ten-year pro career statistics are a remarkable per-game average of 16.3 points, 4.6 rebounds, and 4.5 assists, with career totals of 11,366 points, 2,930 rebounds, and 3,069 assists; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives wishes to recognize James Jones for his peerless athletic career and for his well-deserved induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, for he is truly one of Louisiana's greatest athletes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend James Jones, outstanding professional basketball player, upon the occasion of his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to James Jones.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES