

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 201

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Ronald Ardoin, renowned jockey, 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 Ronald Ardoin, a top jockey who retired in 2003 after thirty years as a leading rider in Louisiana and Texas and a man who meets the standard for the Hall of Fame, for Ronald Ardoin is surely one of the state's greatest athletes; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ardoin won six riding titles at the Fair Grounds Race Course in New Orleans, four consecutively from 1993-1996, and in 1996, he was inducted into that race track's Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ardoin claimed five riding titles at Louisiana Downs Race Track in Bossier City and is the track's all-time leader by wins and stakes wins; and

WHEREAS, the state of Texas heralded Mr. Ardoin in 1997 as the leading rider at the first Lone Star meet at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, Texas, and during the April to July racing period of that year, he accumulated ninety-two wins, seventy-five places, and

fifty-eight shows in four hundred forty-nine starts, collecting a purse total of more than \$1.4 million, and on July 17, 1997, Mr. Ardoin rode six winners at Lone Star; and

WHEREAS, the Carencro native shone brightest and rode best in his home state, amassing almost three thousand career wins at Louisiana Downs and nearly one thousand seven hundred wins at the Fair Grounds; the combined four thousand five hundred thirty-nine wins at these two Louisiana tracks comprised nearly ninety percent of Mr. Ardoin's career riding win total; and

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2000, Mr. Ardoin became the sixteenth jockey to reach the plateau of five thousand wins and finished his career with five thousand two hundred twenty-six wins in more than thirty-two thousand career mounts; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives wishes to recognize Ronald Ardoin 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 Ronald Ardoin, renowned jockey, 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 Ronald Ardoin.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES