

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 45

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEVE CARTER

A RESOLUTION

To commend the 2016-2017 University of New Orleans (UNO) Privateers Men's Basketball team as the 2016-2017 Southland Conference Champions, to commend UNO Men's Basketball Privateers Head Coach Mark Slessinger as the 2016-2017 Southland Conference Coach of the Year, 2016-2017 National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) District 23 Co-Coach of the Year, and 2016-2017 Louisiana Coach of the Year, and to commend UNO Men's Basketball Privateer Erik Thomas as the 2016-2017 Southland Conference Player of the Year and 2016-2017 Louisiana Player of the Year.

WHEREAS, the 2016-2017 UNO Privateers Men's Basketball team finished the season with a 20-12 overall record, and a 13-5 league record to win the Southland Conference regular season title, amassing the most wins by the Privateers in over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the 2016-2017 University of New Orleans Privateers Men's Basketball team seized the title of 2016-2017 Southland Conference Champions, earning the top seed in the Southland Conference tournament; and

WHEREAS, Mark Slessinger, UNO Privateers Head Basketball Coach, through his dedication, commitment to excellence, and perseverance, raised the Privateers overall record from 10-20 in the 2015-2016 season to 20-12 this season, making them the most improved team among the nation's three-hundred-fifty-one Division I programs; and

WHEREAS, Coach Slessinger led the Privateers to their first Division I winning season in more than ten years and their first ever Southland Conference regular season and tournament championship; and

WHEREAS, Coach Slessinger was named 2016-2017 Southland Conference Men's Basketball Coach of the Year by the Southland Conference, 2016-2017 NABC District 23 Co-Coach of the Year, and the Louisiana Men's Basketball Coach of the Year by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association; and

WHEREAS, during the 2016-2017 season, UNO Privateer and Senior Forward Erik Thomas, earned 616 points, 19.3 points per game, 250 rebounds, 7.8 rebounds per game, 223 field goals, a 58.8 field goal percentage, 166 free throws, a 78.3 free throw percentage, 1,043 minutes played, 32.6 minutes per game, 47 steals, 73 assists, and 11 blocked shots; and

WHEREAS, UNO Privateer Erik Thomas, averaged double digits for the Privateers in all thirty-two season games; earning him Honorable-Mention Associated Press All-American, first-team NABC All-Region 23, third-team College Sports Madness All-Mid Major, first-team All-Southland Conference, and Southland Conference Most Valuable Player; and

WHEREAS, UNO Privateer Erik Thomas was named 2016-2017 Men's Basketball Player of the Year by the Southland Conference and 2016-2017 Louisiana Men's Basketball Player of the Year by the Louisiana Sportswriters Association.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the 2016-2017 UNO Privateers Men's Basketball Team for winning the 2017 Southland Conference regular season title and the 2017 Southland Conference tournament title; commends UNO Privateers Head Basketball Coach Mark Slessinger on his selection as the 2016-2017 Southland Conference Coach of the Year, the 2016-2017 NABC District 23 Co-Coach of the Year, and the 2016-2017 Louisiana Men's Basketball Coach of the Year; and commends UNO Privateers Men's Basketball forward Erik Thomas on his selection as the 2016-2017 Southland Conference Player of the Year and the 2016-2017 Louisiana Men's Basketball Player of the Year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the 2016-2017 UNO Privateers Men's Basketball team, UNO Men's Basketball Head Coach Mark Slessinger, and UNO Men's Basketball Forward Erik Thomas.