

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Friday, September 6, 2013, as Alton "Red" Franklin Day in the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Coach Alton "Red" Franklin served as head football coach at Haynesville High School for thirty-five great seasons; and

WHEREAS, Alton "Red" Franklin was the youngest of five children born to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Franklin of Centreville, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Coach Franklin attended Bibb County High School, where he was an outstanding athlete, lettering each year of his high school career in football, basketball, and baseball; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Coach Franklin received a football scholarship to attend the University of Alabama, and he later transferred to Louisiana College in Pineville, where he played football for the Wildcat team; and

WHEREAS, after earning his bachelor's degree from Louisiana College, Coach Franklin pursued his master's degree at Mississippi College, and he later earned a plus thirty from Louisiana Tech University; and

WHEREAS, Coach Franklin met his wife of fifty years, Beth Langford, when he was a student at Louisiana College, and Mr. and Mrs. Franklin are the parents of three sons, Jeff, David, and Tommy, all of whom played football under the coaching direction of their father; and

WHEREAS, Coach and Mrs. Franklin are also the proud grandparents of seven grandchildren, Macy, Caroline, Erin, Trent, Toby, Hayden, and Blake; and

WHEREAS, Coach Franklin began his career in Marksville in 1961, where he coached with the late Warren Douglas, and in 1963 he moved to Springhill High School, where he coached for three years with the late Travis Farrar; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Coach Franklin became an assistant to Coach M.D. Ray in Haynesville, where he was later promoted to head coach of the Golden Tornado, a position he occupied for the next thirty-five seasons; and

WHEREAS, Coach Franklin was the president of the Louisiana High School Coaches Association from 1976 until 1977, served as coach for the Louisiana All-Star Football Team for ten years and as coordinator for two years, served as a member of the board of the Louisiana High School Coaches Association executive committee and the National Federation of High School Rules Committee, and served on the Louisiana Football Coaches Association executive committee; and

WHEREAS, in thirty-five seasons under the outstanding leadership of Coach Franklin, Haynesville High played a total of four hundred fifty games, with three hundred sixty-six wins, eight ties, and only seventy-six losses; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable record has merited Coach Franklin an enviable distinction, putting him in second place for Louisiana's best all-time, all-class, head coaching record; and

WHEREAS, thanks in large part to Coach Franklin, Haynesville High School's program is the second most winning in Louisiana and the twenty-seventh most winning in the nation, including eight state runoffs and fifteen state championships in 1923, 1936, 1970, 1971, 1984, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1993-1996, 2000, and 2009; and

WHEREAS, Coach Franklin has been recognized with numerous awards and honors throughout his extraordinary career, including District Coach of the Year for twenty-three years, State Coach of the Year for six years, and Region Five Coach of the Year in 1985 and 1993; he was elected to the LHSCA/LHSAA Hall of Fame in 1991, the Louisiana College Hall of Fame, and the North Louisiana Chapter of the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame; he was elected Sportsman of the Year for Northwest Louisiana in 1996, and he received the Lion's Club Thirty Year Appreciation and Achievement Award as coach and Christian role model to youth; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Coach Franklin was inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, on July 10, 2010, Coach Franklin received the high honor of being inducted into the National Federation of State High School Associations Hall of Fame Class of 2010; and

WHEREAS, Coach Franklin is an active member of First Baptist Church in Haynesville where he has served as deacon since 1969; and

WHEREAS, Coach Franklin still serves as an assistant coach to his son, David Franklin at Haynesville High; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, September 6, 2013, the Claiborne Parish School Board will rename the Haynesville High School Memorial Stadium to Red Franklin-Memorial Stadium in honor of Coach Franklin's many contributions to the football program at Haynesville High School; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana wishes to recognize Coach Franklin for his manifold contributions and service to the youth of his community and the state of Louisiana and to record his many accomplishments during the course of his outstanding career.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Friday, September 6, 2013, as Alton "Red" Franklin Day in Louisiana, does hereby commend and congratulate Coach Franklin upon his outstanding record as head coach of Haynesville High School during thirty-five years of distinguished leadership, does hereby recognize and record his many contributions to the community and the state as a dedicated educator and role model, and does extend best wishes to this legendary Louisiana coach in all of his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Coach Alton "Red" Franklin, head football coach at Haynesville High School from 1967 until 2002 and that one suitable copy be placed at the Red Franklin-Memorial Stadium.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES