

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 152

BY SENATORS GALLOT AND BUFFINGTON AND REPRESENTATIVE COX

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Orlando Woolridge, former Mansfield High School, University of Notre Dame, and National Basketball Association basketball player and 2010 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame inductee.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the passing of Orlando Woolridge, age fifty-two, on May 31, 2012, at his parents' home in Mansfield; and

WHEREAS, Orlando Woolridge was born on December 16, 1959, to the union of Mattie and Larneen Woolridge in Bernice, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he was a rugged basketball forward who established a reputation over thirteen seasons in the National Basketball Association as a scoring specialist and one of the original alley-oop artists; and

WHEREAS, in high school, Orlando Woolridge scored 3,036 points (22.0 per game) and grabbed 1,945 rebounds (14 per game), including averages of 21 points and 25 rebounds as a senior at Mansfield High School; and

WHEREAS, he was named the state Player of the Year as a senior, when he won his third straight all-district honor and was team co-captain; and

WHEREAS, after high school, he played for the University of Notre Dame and during his tenure there, the Fighting Irish defeated four No. 1 teams (Marquette in 1977-78, DePaul in 1979-80, Kentucky and Virginia in 1980-81), and his coach, Digger Phelps, noted about Woolridge, "He has to be one of few players in the history of college basketball to be part of a team that knocked off four number one teams -- and he won two of those", making

two free throws with 19 seconds left in the second overtime to defeat DePaul and then collecting a loose-ball rebound and against Virginia, making the game-winning, 16-foot jump shot at the buzzer to end a 28-game winning streak for Ralph Sampson and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, at Notre Dame, he averaged 10.6 points in 109 games, helping the Fighting Irish reach the NCAA Tournament in each of his four seasons, including the Final Four as a freshman in 1978, as well as being a senior captain in 1980-81, and then was the sixth overall pick of the Chicago Bulls in 1981; and

WHEREAS, he was known for his high-flying dunks and ability to throw down lob passes in the open court and played for the Bulls, Los Angeles Lakers, New Jersey Nets, Philadelphia 76ers, Denver Nuggets, Milwaukee Bucks, and Detroit Pistons, and also coached the Los Angeles Sparks of the WNBA and the Arizona Rhinos of the ABA; and

WHEREAS, as a player, he averaged 16.0 points in just over 28 minutes per game, quickly emerging as an offensive spark plug no matter if he was in the starting lineup or coming off the bench; and

WHEREAS, he participated in one of the greatest slam dunk contests of all time in 1985, competing against Michael Jordan, Dominique Wilkins and Julius Erving, among others, and he averaged 22.9 points per game for the Bulls in 1984-85, the last player to lead Chicago in scoring before Jordan took over; and

WHEREAS, after his career in the NBA, he spent two seasons playing professionally in Italy; and

WHEREAS, Orlando Woolridge was inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Orlando Woolridge is survived by his four children, Zachary, Renaldo, Royce and Tiana; his parents, Mattie and Larneen; his sister, Dr. Vanessa Woolridge Duplessis; his brother-in-law, Darren Duplessis; and his nephew, Nigel Duplessis.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences to the family of Orlando Woolridge, former Mansfield High School, University of Notre Dame, and National Basketball Association basketball player and 2010 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame inductee, on the occasion of his death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Zachary, Renaldo, Royce and Tiana Woolridge and Mattie and Larnceen Woolridge.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES