

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY SENATOR PEACOCK AND REPRESENTATIVE NORTON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Frank J. "Champ" Cicero Sr., teacher, athletic coach, and mentor; a man who was fulfilled by his service to his God, to his family, to his students, and to his community.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of such a distinguished gentleman as Coach Frank J. Cicero Sr. of Shreveport, a vibrant man who touched the lives of others in such a positive and meaningful manner and whose sports legacy spanned the greater portion of five decades; and

WHEREAS, Coach Frank Cicero was a dynamo and a larger-than-life human being, he was an extraordinary title-winning head coach with a fiery disposition; he was also a well-respected science teacher and mentor who addressed everyone as "Champ"; and

WHEREAS, Coach Frank Cicero had a stellar teaching career at one of Shreveport's most outstanding educational institutions, historically known by the monikers of St. John High School, Jesuit High School of Shreveport, and lastly, Loyola College Preparatory High School; and he was the only faculty member to have taught at the school under all three of its designations; and

WHEREAS, Coach Cicero had the second longest teaching tenure of any faculty member; he joined the faculty in 1950 and retired in 1995 with forty-five years as an earth sciences teacher and baseball and football coach; and

WHEREAS, from 1951 until 1977, Frank Cicero was the head baseball coach at Jesuit High School; he compiled a record of 270-172-4, including six district championships, state runner-up title (1957), and two state championships in 1964 and again in 1974; and he

also coached football for sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, he received numerous honors and awards during his lifetime, however Coach Cicero was profoundly touched when the Flyers baseball field was named "Frank Cicero Field" and the street adjacent to the school campus on the east side, Warrington Place, was renamed "Cicero Street"; and

WHEREAS, he was a first-generation American born on June 30, 1926, in Alexandria, Louisiana, to Sicilian immigrant parents, Joseph and Mary Mule' Cicero; and

WHEREAS, after graduation from Bolton High School in 1944, Frank Cicero was drafted into the United States Army and served on active duty in the European Theater during World War II, he then returned to Louisiana after an honorable discharge from military service; and

WHEREAS, he was a talented athlete who attended Louisiana College on a football scholarship and amassed an outstanding collegiate record by lettering seven times with three letters in baseball and four letters in football, and served as captain of the football team during his junior and senior years; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, Frank Cicero graduated from Louisiana College with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education with a minor in science and in 1974, he earned a master's from Northwestern Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, Coach Cicero possessed a flinty exterior and a disposition as hard as forged steel; he was a strict disciplinarian who demanded the rapt attention of each and everyone in his classroom as well as out on the playing field; and

WHEREAS, every student, from the beginning of freshman year until graduation, knew exactly what his standing was with Coach Cicero, either as a champion or otherwise (in big trouble); and

WHEREAS, from first introductions onward Coach Cicero set the tone for his expectations of superior levels of conduct and academic success in his classroom, and he established this protocol with all students under his tutelage; and

WHEREAS, Coach Cicero was a superb team builder, motivator, and inspirational mentor who taught his students the branches of earth science, the mechanics of athletic endeavors, and the tenets of good sportsmanship; he encouraged them to embrace life with

vigor, purpose, and the humility of a repentant Christian; and

WHEREAS, after his stellar career as one of Shreveport's more popular and respected educators, Coach Cicero was inducted into the Loyola College Preparatory High School Hall of Honor in 1995 and was later inducted into the Louisiana American-Italian Sports Hall of Fame in 2002; and Shreveport Mayor, the Honorable Bo Williams, proclaimed May 25, 1995, as Frank Cicero Day in the city; and

WHEREAS, Frank Cicero passed away at the age of ninety-two on Sunday, August 26, 2018; he is survived by his wife of sixty-one years, Joan Cardaronell Cicero; their two sons, Frank Jr. and John (Jay); their four grandchildren, Jasper, Adam, Emilia, and Jacob; cherished family members, beloved friends, and former players and students; and

WHEREAS, upon his death, the Shreveport community lost a unique individual, who left an indelible mark upon the lives of all who knew him and benefitted from his generosity of spirit; and

WHEREAS, Coach Cicero possessed those outstanding characteristics of leadership and trust that brought out the very best performance in athletes; he encouraged young men, both in the game and beyond it, to put forth their very best efforts, to be strong and brave in the face of formidable opposition, and to work diligently toward achievement of their lifelong goals; and

WHEREAS, it is the memory of Coach Cicero's passion for the game that shall be revisited from time to time; he took good athletes and forged them into great players and great individuals; and

WHEREAS, Frank J. "Champ" Cicero Sr., will be remembered for his devotion to family, his demeanor, his courage, and his steadfast dedication to his God, his students, and his community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Coach Frank J. "Champ" Cicero Sr. and does further hereby acknowledge that his life was well spent in benevolent service to others as a good Christian, teacher, mentor, and athletic coach.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby pay tribute to the remarkable legacy that shall live on in the hearts of those he touched in life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his widow, Mrs. Joan C. Cicero.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES