

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 48

BY SENATOR SEABAUGH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Bobby Ardoin upon receiving the 2024 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and on being named to the 2024 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, each year the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in Natchitoches, Louisiana, collaborates with the Louisiana Sports Writers Association in selecting a limited number of sports figures who embody the character, skill, talent, and accomplishment worthy of being named to the hall of fame; and

WHEREAS, the Distinguished Service Award is the most prestigious honor offered to sports media in the state and recipients are carefully chosen after an extensive deliberation by a forty-member expert panel based on their professional accomplishments in local, state, regional, and national arenas; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Ardoin is the recipient of the 2024 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and a member of the 2024 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Opelousas, Ardoin has been tirelessly working the sidelines of high school and collegiate sports for more than five decades, while his byline has appeared routinely throughout Acadiana and in some of the state's biggest and best newspapers; and

WHEREAS, a native of Eunice, he attended Northwestern State and graduated from the University of Southwest Louisiana (USL) which is now known as the University of Louisiana - Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Ardoin's professional career took off as he served as sports writer for the *Opelousas Daily World*, covering high school sports in both St. Landry and Evangeline parishes, as well as the New Orleans Saints, LSU basketball, USL football, multiple Sugar Bowls, and horse racing at nearby Evangeline Downs; and

WHEREAS, from 1990 to 2016, Ardoin served as a sports and news correspondent for *The Advocate* covering high schools, UL-Lafayette athletics, LSU-Eunice and Evangeline Downs; for the news department, Ardoin covered parish and municipal governments as well as features, and served as the interim bureau chief for *The Acadiana Advocate* in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Ardoin reconnected to his roots in 2013 when he returned to *The Daily World* as the sports editor covering high schools in St. Landry Parish, as well as LSU-Eunice and UL-Lafayette athletics; he is currently covering the news with *St. Landry Today*, which has evolved into a vibrant online publication; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his fifty-plus years as a journalist, Ardoin has worked as a full-time teacher starting at Amy Bradford Ware High School in Opelousas from 1971 to 1974, and then teaching at Opelousas High School where he taught English, Social Studies, Journalism, and served as the school newspaper advisor; and

WHEREAS, Ardoin has received numerous awards for his work and he has twenty-seven first and second place writing awards presented by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association (LSWA), Louisiana Press Association, United Press International and the Associated Press, including being named the LSWA's Prep Writer of the Year in 1982; and

WHEREAS, on three separate occasions, Ardoin has won the State Education Writer of the Year Award presented by the Louisiana Association of Educators and has been named Teacher of the Year at Opelousas High School three times.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Bobby Ardoin upon receiving the 2024 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and on being named to the 2024 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Bobby Ardoin.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES