

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 61

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Dale Ketelson and record for posterity the enduring appreciation of the citizens of Louisiana for his outstanding contributions to and achievements in college and high school wrestling.

WHEREAS, it is with regret that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the death of Dale Ketelson, long-time wrestling coach and Osage, Iowa, native, at age seventy-eight on March 22, 2014; and

WHEREAS, he earned a wrestling scholarship to Iowa State University after graduation from Osage High School, earned three varsity letters as a member of the wrestling team, placing third in the 1957 NCAA tournament and second in 1958 and also was a member of the Iowa State baseball team that played in the College World Series; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from ISU in 1959, he went on active duty with the United States Marine Corps reserve for six months before returning to his alma mater as assistant wrestling coach for two years; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Dale Ketelsen wrestled in the Olympic trials and then coached in high school at Riverside-Brookfield High in Illinois producing thirty all-conference wrestlers, twenty district champions, eight regional champions, and two state champions; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Dale Ketelsen became Louisiana State University's first varsity wrestling coach and, during his tenure from 1968-78, his teams won two Southeastern Conference Intercollegiate Wrestling tournaments, producing fifteen individual conference champions, and he was also a member of the NCAA wrestling rules committee; and

WHEREAS, after leaving LSU, he coached at Louisiana high schools, at Catholic High School for nine seasons before moving to Belaire High School where he served as head wrestling coach and assistant football coach for some twenty years, and later as assistant wrestling coach at St. Paul's in Covington; and

WHEREAS, he was a primary contributor in the promotion of high school wrestling in the state as he helped organize and run state wrestling tournaments on the LSU campus from 1968 through 1974, first at the old Gym Armory and later at the LSU Assembly Center before the Louisiana High School Athletic Association assumed operation of the event; and

WHEREAS, he was a "go-to" guy for coaches who wanted to learn about wrestling in Baton Rouge for he knew the sport and its rules so well that he became a valuable resource for anyone seeking information about the sport he loved; and

WHEREAS, Dale Ketelson was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and was named Master of Wrestling by *Wrestling USA* magazine; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of fifty-two years, Pat Ballard Ketelsen; two sons: Craig Ketelsen, the athletic director-wrestling coach at St. Paul's in Covington, and Erik Ketelsen; one daughter, Penny Kelly; and five grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, the death of Dale Ketelson has left a great void and created a genuine sense of sorrow in all who knew him, particularly those he coached and those who love the sport of high school wrestling, all of whom mourn the loss of this wonderful man who was instrumental in the development of the sport in his adopted home state; and

WHEREAS, Dale Ketelson leaves behind a rich legacy in high school wrestling and will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of former wrestling coach, Dale Ketelson, and does hereby record for posterity the enduring appreciation of the citizens of Louisiana for his outstanding contributions and achievements in the areas of college and high school wrestling.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife, Pat Ballard Ketelson.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES