

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 115

BY SENATOR ALARIO

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Coach Billy North for twenty-two years of distinguished leadership as head football coach of the John Ehret High School Patriots.

WHEREAS, one of the most impressive runs in the history of New Orleans Metro area high school football ended when Coach Billy North announced his plans to retire as head football coach of the John Ehret High School Patriots; and

WHEREAS, according to Coach North, "I've been here for 22 years as a head coach. I've had a great opportunity and it's been a wonderful experience. John Ehret has been my life for 25 years and I greatly appreciate the people that I've worked with here and the children that I've had the opportunity to coach."; and

WHEREAS, he compiled a 156-98 record at Ehret after joining the Jefferson Parish Public Schools System's flagship football program as an assistant coach in 1987 following three years as an assistant at Shaw High School; and

WHEREAS, Coach North succeeded Lowe Irvine as head coach prior to the 1989 season and proceeded to direct the Patriots to 18 playoff appearances, seven district championships, three state semifinals appearances (1992, 2000, 2007) and four other trips to the quarterfinals (1994, 1995, 1999, 2004) while competing in the state's highest classification; and

WHEREAS, his tenure as head coach was interrupted in 1998 when he was forced to take a sabbatical to recover from bypass surgery following a heart attack; and

WHEREAS, more than one hundred athletes signed football letters-of-intent during North's tenure, with nine of them going on to play professional football, and as Coach North noted "... we've also had doctors, lawyers and military heroes who have gone through here who have made our community proud."; and

WHEREAS, he does plan to continue at the Marrero school as athletic director and teacher; and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana wishes to recognize Coach Billy North 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 as head football coach.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Coach Billy North upon the occasion of his retirement as head coach of John Ehret High School after twenty-two years of distinguished leadership, does recognize and record his many contributions to the community and the state as a dedicated educator and role model, and does extend best wishes in all of his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Coach Billy North.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE