

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 134

BY SENATORS ALARIO, DORSEY-COLOMB, ADLEY, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To congratulate the LSU Fighting Tiger baseball team on attaining an unprecedented regular season record and on winning the 2013 Southeastern Conference Tournament Championship and to extend best wishes for continued success in the NCAA Tournament.

WHEREAS, in the 2013 regular season, the LSU baseball team set standards for Tiger baseball with flair, consistency, determination, and a level of overall performance unmatched in Tiger history, posting a 48-8 record; and

WHEREAS, in the SEC Tournament, the Tigers won its opening game against Alabama 3-0 behind shut-out pitching of sophomore Cody Glenn, junior Nick Rumbelow and senior Chris Cotton and a three-hit performance by freshman shortstop Alex Bregman; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers were outscored by Arkansas, 4-1, negating another superb pitching performance by sophomore Aaron Nola, who posted a 10 win regular season record without a loss; and

WHEREAS, LSU rebounded, using a ninth inning rally, to best the Crimson Tide 3-2 in a rematch, with sophomore infielder Tyler Moore driving in the tying run and scoring the winning run on a hit by junior catcher Ty Ross, while Tiger pitching was outstanding with juniors Ryan Eades, and Nate Fury and Cotton; and

WHEREAS, in its fourth game, a second contest with Arkansas, Tiger pitching was again dominant as freshman Hunter Newman, junior Will LaMarche, and seniors Kevin Berry, Joey Bourgeois, and Cotton combined to one-hit the Hogs, while junior third baseman Christian Ibarra had three hits and two RBIs, as LSU prevailed 3-1; and

WHEREAS, the Championship game between the No. 1 Vanderbilt Commodores and No. 2 LSU proved a worthy prelude to the NCAA Tournament in Omaha with the scrappy Tigers capturing a heart-stopping 5-4 eleven inning win, with outstanding team and individual efforts including a tremendous catch by freshman center fielder Andrew Stevenson, an outstanding catch and clutch throw to home by sophomore right fielder Jared Foster, a superb catch and tag by Ross to nail a Commodore runner with the potential lead run at home plate, a good at bat and steal of second in the eleventh inning by Foster, and a clutch pinch hit by sophomore Chris Sciambra to drive in Foster with the lead run, and with Cotton as the winning pitcher; and

WHEREAS, the all-tournament team included Ibarra, Foster, and junior designated hitter Sean McMullen, along with the tournament's most valuable player, Chris Cotton, who was spectacular in the tournament appearing in four of the five games in which the Tigers participated and posting three saves and winning the championship, all in relief, and retiring seventeen consecutive batters over the four games; and

WHEREAS, senior Mason Katz, a native of Harahan, a two-time All-SEC selection, a member of the SEC Academic Honor Roll, National Player of the Week three times in his LSU career, a member of the 2013 SEC Community Service Team, and a graduate in sports administration, was the recipient of the Wally Pontiff Jr. Scholar Athlete Award; and

WHEREAS, senior Raph Rhymes, a native of Monroe, a 2012 Southeastern Conference Player of the Year and first team All-American, two-time member of the SEC Academic Honor Roll team, led the nation in hitting in 2012, has an LSU record .431 batting average and a .376 career average over three seasons with the Tigers, and a sports administration graduate, received the Skip Bertman Award from Coach Bertman signifying the player who best exemplifies the spirit of the LSU baseball program; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers are led by a stellar group of upper classmen which includes seniors, pitcher Brent Bonvillain, outfielder Alex Edward, and infielder Casey Yokum and juniors, second baseman Jacoby Jones and pitcher Kurt McCune; and

WHEREAS, the freshmen on the squad are outstanding and include outfielder Mark Laird, catchers Chris Chinaea and Michael Barash, and pitchers Taylor Butler, Hunter Devall, Russell Reynolds, and Mitch Sewald; and

WHEREAS, the team excelled throughout the season and in the SEC Tournament under the direction of the coaching and support staff of head coach Paul Mainieri, pitching coach Alan Dunn, hitting coach Javi Sanchez, volunteer assistant coach Will Davis, strength and conditioning coach Jeremy Phillips, undergraduate assistant coach Blake Dean, and coordinator of baseball operations Ross Brezovsky.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend hearty congratulations to the 2013 LSU Fighting Tiger baseball team for an unprecedented regular season record of 48-8 and on capturing the 2013 Southeastern Conference Tournament Championship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby extends best wishes to the 2013 LSU Fighting Tiger baseball team for continued success in the NCAA Tournament.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to LSU Athletic Director Joe Aleva and LSU Head Baseball Coach, Paul Mainieri.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE