

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 136

BY SENATOR BERNARD

A RESOLUTION

To commend Mike McConathy on his outstanding accomplishments as head coach of the Northwestern State University mens basketball team and to commend him on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, one of Louisiana's greatest sports emissaries, Northwestern State University mens basketball Coach Mike McConathy is retiring after twenty-three seasons with the Demons; and

WHEREAS, Coach McConathy is the winningest mens basketball coach in Louisiana history; and

WHEREAS, Coach McConathy finishes with an overall record of six hundred eighty-two victories in thirty-nine seasons, placing him at the top among Louisiana college coaches in state history; and

WHEREAS, the first three hundred fifty-two wins came over sixteen years at Bossier Parish Community College, where he started the basketball program, and the next three hundred thirty wins came over twenty-three seasons at Northwestern State; and

WHEREAS, in the Southland Conference and Louisiana basketball history, Mike McConathy has a unique and remarkable place as both a player and head coach; and

WHEREAS, Mike McConathy is regarded as one of the greatest players in state and conference history, scoring two thousand thirty-three points (20.7 per game) from 1973-77 at Louisiana Tech, leading the Bulldogs to the 1976 conference crown as the Southland Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mike McConathy was chosen for the 1970s All-Decade Team; and

WHEREAS, Mike McConathy has engineered many of the greatest accomplishments in the Demon Mens basketball program's one hundred year history; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend and celebrate this beloved and legendary mens basketball coach who is a widely respected and admired citizen of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Coach McConathy is a master of March Madness, who has made seven Southland Tournament championship game appearances in twelve conference tourney trips during his first eighteen seasons; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mike McConathy has led the Demons to three NCAA Tournament appearances, including in one of the most memorable March Madness upsets in tournament history with a 2006 win against No. 3 seed Iowa in which Northwestern State University erased a seventeen point Hawkeye lead with eight and one-half minutes remaining; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mike McConathy crossed the three hundred win mark on the Northwestern State University sidelines in his twenty-first season, leading a team with six of its top seven scorers being newcomers to a fourth-place finish in the Southland Conference and a first-round tournament win before the postseason was canceled because of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, Coach McConathy has developed twenty-nine all-conference players at Northwestern State University with Trey Gilder reaching the NBA, and more than twenty-five playing professionally overseas or domestically; and

WHEREAS, Northwestern State University mens basketball has evolved during Coach McConathy's tenure from being nearly an afterthought in the historic city of Natchitoches to the Demons providing the sports heartbeat of northwest Louisiana in February and March; and

WHEREAS, Coach McConathy's core philosophy includes the belief, "The MVP of our team is our team", and his use of a deep rotation, often with wave substitutions of five-for-five, is a tried-and-true method that has Northwestern State University playing its best basketball down the stretch; and

WHEREAS, he received the 2012 NABC Guardians of the Game Pillar Award for Education during NCAA Final Four weekend in New Orleans, Louisiana; it is among the most prestigious awards presented by the NABC, representing one of the four core values of the Guardians of the Game program: education, leadership, advocacy, and service; and

WHEREAS, an ambassador of basketball to anyone who would listen, Coach McConathy never missed a chance to promote sports at any level in the region, and prior to home games in Natchitoches, he could be seen moving through the stands thanking fans for supporting his players; and

WHEREAS, Coach McConathy routinely expresses that he could not have asked for a better group of student athletes to have been associated with for more than two decades than the students at Northwestern State University; and

WHEREAS, on the scholastic front, ninety percent of the students under Coach McConathy's charge received their undergraduate degrees; and

WHEREAS, it takes a special person to be a part of a coach's family and journey; Coach McConathy admits that he could not have achieved his accomplishments without the love and unwavering support of his wife Connie, and his two sons, Michael and Logan; and

WHEREAS, those who have worked closely with Coach McConathy throughout his exemplary career respect and admire him for the indelible mark he has made on the Northwestern State University mens basketball program and for the legacy of excellence he continues to uphold; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mike McConathy retires a living legend with a legacy of excellence that will echo throughout the ages.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Coach Mike McConathy on his outstanding accomplishments as head coach of the Northwestern State University mens basketball team and commend him on the occasion of his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Coach Mike McConathy and Athletic Director Kevin Bostian.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE