

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 143

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Mike McConathy on being named the recipient of the 2023 Mr. Basketball Award by the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches (LABC) is an esteemed organization dedicated to recognizing and promoting excellence in the sport of basketball and annually bestows the prestigious Mr. Basketball Award to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, exceptional skill, and unwavering commitment to the game; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2023, the LABC has bestowed the coveted Mr. Basketball Award upon a truly deserving individual, Mike McConathy, whose unparalleled dedication and contributions to basketball have earned him this prestigious honor; and

WHEREAS, Mike McConathy, a native of Louisiana, has long been recognized as a pillar of the basketball community within our great state; and

WHEREAS, known as a program builder with a Midas touch, Mike McConathy has showcased his exceptional coaching abilities throughout his illustrious career; and

WHEREAS, he embarked on a remarkable journey as he started the basketball program from scratch at Bossier Parish Community College, transforming it into a National Junior College Athletic Association national tournament participant; and

WHEREAS, his coaching tenure of twenty-three years, 1999-2022, at Northwestern State University, marked a period of extraordinary achievement, during which he amassed a state-record six hundred eighty-two victories, becoming Louisiana's leader in coaching victories; and

WHEREAS, Mike McConathy's tenure at Northwestern State University included numerous notable accomplishments, including guiding the Demons to three NCAA Tournaments in 2001, 2006, and 2013; and

WHEREAS, his exceptional coaching prowess was highlighted in the historic 2001 play-in game, where the Demons secured a momentous victory over Winthrop 71-67, marking the first of its kind; and

WHEREAS, Mike McConathy's coaching legacy at Northwestern State University reached new heights when he and his Demons engineered one of March Madness' most memorable moments, as Jermaine Wallace's corner three-pointer sealed a remarkable 64-63 upset of No. 3 seed Iowa, with the Demons rallying from a seventeen-point deficit with less than ten minutes remaining; and

WHEREAS, Mike McConathy's unwavering commitment to his players' academic success has also been commendable, emphasizing the importance of education and character development alongside athletic pursuits; and

WHEREAS, the LABC, in recognition of Mike McConathy's outstanding achievements, unwavering dedication, and profound impact on the basketball community has honored him with the 2023 Mr. Basketball Award; and

WHEREAS, the victory total and championship banners achieved by Mike McConathy are emblematic of his exceptional career as a collegiate head coach, spanning over three decades.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Senate hereby commends Mike McConathy on being named the recipient of the 2023 Mr. Basketball Award by the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches and extends its heartfelt congratulation on his exceptional coaching career, applauding his dedication, leadership, and significant contributions to the sport of basketball.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mike McConathy as an expression of the Louisiana Senate's deep admiration and appreciation for his outstanding achievements and commitment to the game of basketball.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE