

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 163

BY SENATORS BOUDREAUX, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BASS, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, COUSSAN, DUPLESSIS, EDMONDS, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HODGES, JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MIGUEZ, MILLER, MIZELL, MORRIS, OWEN, PRESSLY, PRICE, REESE, SEABAUGH, STINE, TALBOT, WHEAT AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate John Keller upon the occasion of his retirement and recognize and honor his life, service, contributions and the sacrifices he made for his community and country.

WHEREAS, John Isaac Keller was born in Baton Rouge on February 16, 1944, and baptized at an early age at Rose Hill Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, he attended McKinley High School, where he excelled in both track and football, graduating in 1962; and

WHEREAS, following high school, John pursued higher education at Southern University in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, after three years of college, John answered the call to serve his country and was drafted into the United States Army, undergoing basic training at Ft. Polk in Leesville, Louisiana, and subsequently serving in Vietnam with distinction as part of a reconnaissance patrol unit; and

WHEREAS, John's dedication and bravery were evident as he fought for survival in Vietnam, enduring hardships and ultimately contracting malaria, for which he was awarded the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, upon his honorable discharge from the army in 1968, John returned to civilian life, bravely facing the challenges of post-traumatic stress syndrome; and

WHEREAS, despite these challenges, John found solace and purpose in coaching BREC's South Baton Rouge Senior Rams football team, where he served as offensive coordinator from 1983 to 2005, leading the team to numerous championships and mentoring outstanding athletes, including Warrick Dunn, Glen "Big Baby" Davis, and Ben Bankston; and

WHEREAS, John's contributions to the community extended beyond the football

field, as he dedicated himself to public service, working part-time for the Louisiana Senate and eventually being elected by that body as Sergeant at Arms in 2004, a position he honorably held until 2024; and

WHEREAS, John Keller is also celebrated as a proud parent to one son, Travis, and five daughters, Nicole, Monica, Tammy, Chirquetea, and Jonique; and

WHEREAS, his legacy of service, resilience, and dedication to others will forever inspire and be remembered by all who have the privilege of knowing him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate John Keller upon the occasion of his retirement and recognize and honor his life, service, contributions and the sacrifices he made for his community and country.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE