

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, BROWN, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Archie Manning on being named the 2016 recipient of the National Football Foundation's Gold Medal.

WHEREAS, Archie Manning will be honored as the 63rd Gold Medal Recipient at the National Football Foundation's 59th Annual Awards Dinner on December 6, 2016, at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City; and

WHEREAS, past recipients of the NFF Gold Medal include Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Senator John Glenn, General Pete Dawkins, Roger Staubach, Bobby Bowden, General Tommy R. Franks, Jackie Robinson, General Norman Schwarzkopf, President George H. Bush, Paul Brown, Jack Kemp, John Wayne, President Gerald R. Ford, President Ronald W. Reagan, Coach Earl H. "Red" Blaik, Supreme Court Justice Byron "Whizzer" White, President John F. Kennedy, Amos Alonzo Stagg, General Douglas A. MacArthur, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower; and

WHEREAS, Manning joined the NFF Board of Directors in 1993, has also been the NFF Chairman since 2007, and has been the leader of a nationwide network of 120 chapters in 47 states with more than 12,000 members; during his tenure as chairman, the NFF has experienced remarkable growth, and his leadership played a critical role in the recent opening of the state-of-the-art \$68.5 million College Football Hall of Fame in the heart of Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, he also oversaw the launch of the NFF Leadership Hall of Fame, which

has helped raise and distribute millions of dollars for the NFF scholarships, programs and initiatives, and currently, the organization distributes more than \$1.3 million each year and recognizes thousands of student-athletes for their accomplishments on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, Archie Manning was born on May 19, 1949, in Drew, Mississippi, and excelled in football, basketball, track, and baseball at Drew High School; and

WHEREAS, he was drafted for baseball by the Atlanta Braves after his senior season in high school but chose to focus on education and his passion for football led him to accept an athletic scholarship to the University of Mississippi; however, he continued to play baseball at Ole Miss, playing shortstop for the Rebels in the College World Series and receiving three more baseball draft offers; and

WHEREAS, Archie starred as the Ole Miss football team's starting quarterback for three years, 1968, 1969, and 1970, earning the nickname Archie "Super" Manning and playing in three bowl games; and

WHEREAS, he ended his college career with 5,576 yards of total offense, and he accounted for a then-school-record 56 touchdowns; he still holds several school records, with a number of his previous records having been broken by his son, Eli; he earned All-American and All-SEC honors in both 1969 and 1970, and he finished fourth in balloting for the Heisman Trophy in 1969 and third in 1970; and

WHEREAS, he was the No. 2 overall pick in the 1971 NFL Draft by the New Orleans Saints and played the bulk of an outstanding fourteen-year pro career with the Saints, twice making the Pro Bowl; in 1978, he was named the NFC Most Valuable Player by Sporting News and the NFC Offensive Player of the Year by UPI as well as receiving the Byron "Whizzer" White Humanitarian Award the same year for his work in the community; and

WHEREAS, Archie completed his professional career in 1984 after stops with the Houston Oilers and Minnesota Vikings, with 23,911 career passing yards, 125 touchdown passes, and 18 rushing touchdowns during his NFL career; and

WHEREAS, Manning's football accolades are numerous at both the college and pro levels; his No. 18 became the first of only two Ole Miss jerseys ever retired by the school, and the on-campus speed limit is also set at 18 mph in his honor (a 10 mph speed limit was

later added in certain areas as a tribute to Eli's jersey number); he is a member of the Ole Miss Team of the Century (1893-1992) and SEC All-Century Team; he was named an SEC Legend in 1998; in addition to being named to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1989, he is a member of multiple halls of fame, including the Mississippi Sports, Ole Miss Sports, Gator Bowl, Greater New Orleans, Louisiana Sports and National Quarterback Club; he is a member of the Louisiana Superdome Wall of Fame and New Orleans Saints Ring of Honor; he was voted Mississippi's Greatest All-Time Athlete in 1992; and he was named Mississippi's Most Popular Athlete of the Century; and

WHEREAS, Manning's post-football career has included roles as an investment broker, broadcaster, restaurateur, endorser, founder of the Manning Passing Academy, and philanthropist, and he has served in public relations and consulting capacities for several local, regional and national companies, including Gatorade, Direct TV, Reebok, Nationwide, Entergy and CBS Sports; and

WHEREAS, along the way, Archie developed another career in community service, and he has been recognized for his work with the Boy Scouts, Special Olympics, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, 4-H, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, United Negro College Fund, Easter Seals, United Way, New Orleans Sports Foundation, the Allstate Sugar Bowl Committee, the Salvation Army and others; and

WHEREAS, he headed the Archie Manning's "Run So Children can Walk" project, and for more than twenty-five years, he hosted numerous golf tournaments to raise funds to battle cystic fibrosis; and

WHEREAS, Archie's stature in the college football community also earned him a prestigious spot on the inaugural College Football Playoff (CFP) Selection Committee during the 2014 season; and

WHEREAS, in May of 1971, Manning married his college sweetheart Olivia Williams, and they raised three boys, Cooper, who became a partner in a successful energy investment firm, and Peyton and Eli, who both experienced enormous success as college student-athletes and subsequently as pro football players in the NFL; and

WHEREAS, Archie and Olivia reside in New Orleans, and in addition to their three sons and daughters-in-law, they have eight grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Cooper, Peyton, and Eli have all followed their father's example as community leaders, and the family collectively founded the Manning Passing Academy in 1996 as a way of mentoring young high school football players; over the past twenty years the camp has reached more than 21,000 high school players, producing an annual economic impact of more than \$4.5 million for the area; and

WHEREAS, another key example of the Mannings' efforts to give back includes the Manning Family Fund for a Healthier Mississippi, which was launched on July 23, 2014; a partnership with the University of Mississippi Medical Center, the fund aims to address the many health challenges facing Mississippians, including some of the highest rates in the country for obesity, diabetes, low-birth weight, heart disease, kidney disease, hypertension, and dementia; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of their countless contributions, Ole Miss Athletics named its Indoor Practice Facility as the Olivia and Archie Manning Athletics Performance Center in 2013, and in honor of the Mannings' many college football accomplishments, the Allstate Sugar Bowl Committee created the Manning Award, which is annually presented to the nation's best college quarterback; and

WHEREAS, Manning's connection to the Allstate Sugar Bowl, a Sugar Bowl Committee member since 1986, also includes playing a prominent role with the local NFF Allstate Sugar Bowl Chapter in New Orleans, which annually distributes more than \$40,000 in scholarships for high school football players; and

WHEREAS, Archie's numerous other accolades include being voted the 1981 Mississippian of the Year; the 2005 Legends Award from the Davey O'Brien Foundation; the Aspire Award, a tribute to life's coaches, from the Cal Ripken Foundation; the "Father of the Year" award from the National Father's Day Council; the 2011 Francis J. "Reds" Bagnell Award from the Maxwell Football Club for his contributions to the game; the 2013 Pat Summerall Award from Legends for Charity; the 2016 AutoZone Liberty Bowl Distinguished Citizen Award; the 2016 Touchdowner of the Year Award from the Touchdown Club of Houston NFF Chapter; and the National Pathfinder Award alongside his wife Oliva from the Indiana Sports Corporation for their contributions and dedication to youth; and

WHEREAS, as stated by the Awards Committee Chairman, "Coming from humble beginnings, Archie Manning has exhibited an extraordinary work ethic throughout his life. His exceptional composure enabled him to handle adversity both on and off the field, and he has remained deeply committed to his family and the community. His focus has always been on others and making those around him better. No individual is more worthy of our highest honor..."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby commends and congratulates Archie Manning on being the recipient of the 2016 National Football Foundation's Gold Medal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Archie Manning.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE