

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 72

BY SENATOR BERNARD

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Sheldon Mickles on being selected for the 2021 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and on being named to the 2021 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in Natchitoches, Louisiana, each year collaborates with the Louisiana Sports Writers Association in selecting a limited number of sports figures who embody the character, skill, and talent worthy of being named to the hall of fame; and

WHEREAS, the Distinguished Service Award is the most prestigious honor offered to sports media in the state and recipients are carefully chosen after an extensive deliberation by a thirty-member expert panel based on their professional accomplishments in local, state, regional, and national arenas; and

WHEREAS, Sheldon Mickles is a recipient of the 2021 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and a member of the 2021 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class; and

WHEREAS, he is a Gretna native and a graduate of Archbishop Shaw High School and Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, Sheldon Mickles spent over four decades covering a variety of south Louisiana sports for two Baton Rouge papers -- the old afternoon *State-Times* (1978-91) and *The Advocate* (1991-present); and

WHEREAS, he started his career covering high schools and LSU track, then moved on to Southern University football and basketball before settling in as the Saints beat writer for thirty seasons from 1984-2013; and

WHEREAS, during his time on the Saints beat, he was in the press box for five hundred forty preseason, regular season, and postseason games, including the team's run to the Super Bowl XLIV title, as well as seventeen other Super Bowls; and

WHEREAS, he also covered the LSU track teams for the past forty-two seasons and currently is in his second stint as the LSU mens basketball beat writer as well as being part of *The Advocate's* football coverage team; and

WHEREAS, he also covered LSU gymnastics, womens basketball, baseball, and softball events, as well as the New Orleans PGA Tour event for the past thirty-one years; and

WHEREAS, Sheldon Mickles is the recipient and winner of numerous state, regional, and national writing awards, including a two-time LSWA Class I Columnist of the Year, the Louisiana-Mississippi AP Managing Editors (APME) Columnist of the Year in 2012, and the 1998 Mac Russo Award winner; and

WHEREAS, he served as president of the LSWA (1988-90) following stints as secretary and vice president and has been a Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame committee member since 1983, serving as the nominating chairman since 2009; and

WHEREAS, his longtime involvement with, and stewardship of, the LSWA writing contest, teaming with Glenn Quebedeaux, has been a bedrock for the organization; and

WHEREAS, he was the 2019 recipient of the Track and Field Writers of America's Cordner Nelson Memorial Award for lifetime achievement and writing excellence and he is a voter for the Heisman and Biletnikoff awards and the AP college basketball poll; and

WHEREAS, Sheldon Mickles' iconic career has rightly earned him the 2021 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and a place among the many greats in the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Sheldon Mickles for receiving the 2021 Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism and for being named to the 2021 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Sheldon Mickles.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE