

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY REPRESENTATIVES COUSSAN AND BISHOP

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Coach Jim Hightower on his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and his outstanding athletic career as head coach of the St. Thomas More Catholic High School football team in Lafayette, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Coach Jim Hightower upon his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and on his outstanding athletic career; and

WHEREAS, Jim Hightower was born on December 29, 1948, in Alhambra, California; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from South Pasadena High School, Coach Hightower received a football scholarship from the University of California, Davis, where he earned his bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, Coach Hightower subsequently earned his master's degree from Louisiana State University, where he worked as a graduate assistant; and

WHEREAS, he began his distinguished career as head football coach and baseball coach at Catholic High of Pointe Coupee, leading their football team and baseball team to state championship wins in 1978 and 1986; and

WHEREAS, Coach Hightower has spent the last three decades of his career as head coach of the St. Thomas More Catholic High School football team; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at St. Thomas More, he has lead the football team in twenty-seven consecutive playoff appearances and thirteen district championships; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2016, Coach Hightower lead the St. Thomas More Catholic High School football team to win the first Division II state championship in the school's history; and

WHEREAS, Coach Hightower is recognized as the eighteenth winningest active high school football coach in the nation and the second winningest active high school football coach in the history of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, June 25, 2016, Jim Hightower was inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame was established in 1958 and was intended, in the words of Otis Harris, sports editor of the *Shreveport Journal*, to be "the Louisiana Hall of Fame – a hall of fame for the state's greatest athletes, men or women, amateur or professional, living or dead"; and

WHEREAS, Coach Hightower is respected and admired for the wonderful guidance he gives to his athletes both on and off the field, as he challenges them to succeed not only as athletes but as well-rounded human beings; and

WHEREAS, Coach Hightower merits a special measure of commendation for his highly significant achievements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Coach Jim Hightower on his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and on his outstanding athletic career as head football coach at St. Thomas More Catholic High School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Coach Jim Hightower.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE