

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 181

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Wright Waters on receiving the 2014 Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Wright Waters on receiving the 2014 Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership  
3 Award.

4 WHEREAS, the Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award is presented  
5 annually by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association's thirty-member Louisiana Sports Hall  
6 of Fame selection committee to an individual who has played a decisive role as a sports  
7 leader or administrator benefitting Louisiana and bringing credit to the state on the national  
8 and international level; and

9 WHEREAS, the Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award is named in honor  
10 of Hall of Famer Dave Dixon, the driving force behind bringing the National Football  
11 League to Louisiana with the creation of the New Orleans Saints franchise, and the man who  
12 is also considered the "father" of the Mercedes-Benz Louisiana Superdome; and

13 WHEREAS, longtime Sun Belt Conference commissioner Wright Waters is one of  
14 two 2014 recipients of the Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award presented by the  
15 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame; and

16 WHEREAS, Wright Waters served as a Division I conference commissioner for two  
17 decades as part of a forty-year career in collegiate athletics; and

18 WHEREAS, before moving to the conference level, Mr. Waters served as associate  
19 athletic director at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette prior to a four-year stint at  
20 Tulane University as both associate athletic director and interim athletic director; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Waters left Tulane for the Southeastern Conference, where he was  
2 commissioner for seven years and helped that league to achieve unprecedented growth; and

3           WHEREAS, Wright Waters left the Southeastern Conference in 1998 to take over  
4 as only the fourth commissioner of the Sun Belt, and two years later, he became one of only  
5 two commissioners in modern-day National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA)  
6 history to oversee the addition of football as a league sport in a currently existing Football  
7 Bowl Subdivision (FBS) league; and

8           WHEREAS, under Wright Waters' leadership, the league became a Bowl  
9 Championship Series conference, and it gained a permanent seat on the NCAA Board of  
10 Directors; and

11           WHEREAS, during his stint as commissioner, Mr. Waters was integral in convincing  
12 many Sun Belt schools of the benefits of moving to Division I, and was thus instrumental  
13 in helping to form a successful football league that now has two automatic bowl tie-ins,  
14 including the New Orleans Bowl; and

15           WHEREAS, led by Mr. Waters, the league added five members and increased its  
16 sports sponsorship by five; and

17           WHEREAS, Wright Waters will be among the 2014 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame  
18 induction class to be spotlighted at the annual induction dinner and ceremonies on Saturday  
19 evening, June twenty-first, at the Natchitoches Events Center.

20           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
21 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Wright Waters on receiving the 2014 Dave  
22 Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award.

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
24 to Wright Waters.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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