

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 127

BY SENATOR JOHNS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Louis Bonnette for forty-six years of dedicated service to McNeese State University on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, Louis Bonnette is the Senior Associate Athletic Director in charge of sports information and Sports Information Director at McNeese State University; and

WHEREAS, effective July 1, 2012, he will retire ending a tenure that began in 1966, a career that has spanned the course of six decades; and

WHEREAS, Louis Bonnette, who will be seventy-two in December, came to the university before the position of sports information director existed, from being a reporter for the Beaumont (Texas) Enterprise to being hired by Jim Wynn as an assistant director for the McNeese News Bureau, which included sports information; and

WHEREAS, in 1970 the position was moved to the athletic department, where he also took on roles as the ticket manager and business manager; and

WHEREAS, Louis Bonnette has worked many long and hard hours to bring the story of McNeese State athletics to the state, region, and nation, and has promoted numerous McNeese State players to All-America honors, including NBA Hall of Famer Joe Dumars, while always maintaining a positive approach to his work and seeing the best in everyone, with everybody considered as a friend; and

WHEREAS, he has witnessed and been a part of the vast changes in the manner in which information is disseminated - from telephone dictation, telecopier, typewriter, computer, the Internet, and now Facebook and Twitter; and

WHEREAS, Louis Bonnette has two sons and both are sports information directors, Michael at LSU and Matthew at Northwestern State University and has countless former student assistants who have also gone into the business; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Bonnette, a 2002 graduate of McNeese State University, will succeed his father as sports information director at McNeese; and

WHEREAS, Louis Bonnette is a native of Pineville and a 1963 graduate of Louisiana Tech University in Journalism; and

WHEREAS, he is also a past two term president of the Louisiana Sports Writers Association and has been the recipient of the LSWA's Mac Russo Award; has received the Distinguished Service Award from the LSWA; was named to the Southland Conference Hall of Honor in 2007; has also been inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, in the sports journalism division; is a member of the McNeese Hall of Fame which he founded and serves as its chairman; is active in CoSIDA and served on its academic All-America committee; and holds the CoSIDA record for consecutive football games worked, 257; and

WHEREAS, he is the only sports information director in the nation for whom a football field - Louis Bonnette Field - has been named; and

WHEREAS, Louis Bonnette stated that his pending retirement will give him time to write, golf, fish, and spend time with his grandchildren.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana that Louis Bonnette is hereby commended and congratulated for forty-six years of dedicated and exemplary service to McNeese State University on the occasion of his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that best wishes are extended to him for every happiness and success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Louis Bonnette.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE