

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 158

BY SENATORS CHABERT AND ALLAIN

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Ellender Memorial High School Lady Patriots basketball team upon winning the Class 4A state championship.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the citizens of Louisiana have learned that the Ellender Memorial High School Lady Patriots basketball team won the 2016-2017 Class 4A championship for the fifth time in school history; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Patriots completed a dream season on March 4, 2017, at the Southeastern Louisiana University Center in Hammond with a 65-49 victory over Salmen High School; and

WHEREAS, along the way, the girls compiled a record of twenty-eight wins and only seven losses with a perfect record in district play; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Patriots legendary Head Coach Kenneth Dixon recently returned from a brief retirement to lead the team to its first championship tournament appearance since 2008; and

WHEREAS, under Coach Dixon, Ellender's teams have previously claimed state titles in 1999, 2000, 2003, and 2007, as well as finishing as state runner-up in 2001 and 2008; and

WHEREAS, Coach Dixon was ably assisted by Gus Brown and Kenya Bibbs, and supported by Principal Blaise Pellegrin and assistant principals John Campbell and Dina Hutchinson; and

WHEREAS, on the court, the team was led by senior captains Nikkia Johnson and VaShawn McKinley; and

WHEREAS, with twelve returning letter winners, including Class 4A tournament most valuable player Orion James, Kira Coleman, Mariah Steward, Keion Lyons, Class 4A All-State Most Outstanding Player Terris McKay, J'Lisha Holly, second team All-District Trastasia Hester, All-State Honorable Mention Marghan Frierson, Tranace Alexander, Carly

Anderson, Tanisha Hester, and Mya Steward, the Lady Patriots are poised to ably defend their title next season; and

WHEREAS, while these girls excel on the basketball court, they also thrive in the classroom as scholar athletes; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Senate wish to recognize each of the coaches, managers, and the extraordinary Lady Patriots team members on their much deserved state championship title that was earned through teamwork, determination, and a commitment to their sport and each other.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the players, managers, and coaches of the Ellender Memorial High School Lady Patriots basketball team on an outstanding and memorable season, and upon capturing the Class 4A state championship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Head Coach Kenneth Dixon.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE