

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 170

BY SENATOR JOHNS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Mike Johns, head coach of the St. Louis Catholic High School Saints football team of Lake Charles, and to congratulate him upon his retirement after a sterling career of forty-eight years in coaching.

WHEREAS, Coach Mike Johns proved to be a leader of the highest caliber, a catalyst who motivated young athletes to work together, to exceed their personal expectations, to attempt seemingly unattainable goals, to demonstrate an exceptionally competitive nature, and to perform as a team made of many cohesive parts; and

WHEREAS, Coach Johns began his athletic coaching career in 1966 at LaGrange Junior High School after obtaining a bachelor's degree from McNeese State University; he also coached at Sam Houston High School, LaGrange High School, and for the last thirteen years at St. Louis Catholic High School; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as head coach, he garnered twenty playoff appearances, ten each at both LaGrange and St. Louis Catholic high schools, with six Class 5A district championships at LaGrange and four district championships at St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Coach Johns garnered numerous awards through his career that include ten-time District Coach of the Year, Class 5A Coach of the Year, and as the Southwest Louisiana High School Football Coach of the Year in 1994, Big Schools Coach of the Year in 2010, and as the Coach of the Decade for the 1990's; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mike Johns developed the skill set of a multitude of young athletes and also was a mentor, father figure, and advisor to many young men who struggled to find success in the world of high school, collegiate, and professional sports; and

WHEREAS, Coach Johns possessed the outstanding characteristics of leadership and trust that brought out the very best performance in athletes; he encouraged them, both in the game and beyond it, to put forth their very best efforts, to be strong and brave in the face of formidable opposition, and to work diligently toward achievement of their lifelong goals; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mike Johns concluded his illustrious athletic career on November 8, 2013, his last Friday Night Under the Lights, with a home game victory (35-13) against Iota; and

WHEREAS, when next football season begins, Coach Johns will fondly remember his many fine days on the gridiron and the elation from that roar of "Go Saints".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby commends and congratulates Coach Mike Johns for his legendary forty-eight year career in Southwest Louisiana athletics and for his many championships and honors upon the occasion of his well-earned retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Coach Mike Johns.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE