

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 262

BY SENATORS BARROW, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Southern University Jaguars baseball team on its accomplishments during the 2019 season.

WHEREAS, the Southern University Jaguars baseball team, under the leadership of its second year Head Coach Kerrick Jackson, finished the 2019 season 32-24; and

WHEREAS, the Jaguars opened the 2019 season with a perfect 3-0 record in the Andre Dawson Classic at the MLB New Orleans Youth Academy, defeating Florida A&M University, Grambling State University, and Alcorn State University; and

WHEREAS, throughout the season, Coach Jackson's philosophy of playing "clean baseball" produced a number of signature nonconference wins, including triumphs over Eastern Illinois, Northwestern State, Memphis, and New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the Jaguars made history on the night of April 9, 2019, when Southern handed nationally ranked Louisiana State University a 7-2 loss at Lee-Hines Field, the first home win in the series between the Tigers and the Jaguars; and

WHEREAS, the Jaguars honored the passing of superfan Po Ben with a home sweep of rival Grambling State University in March, and also honored the sixtieth anniversary of the 1959 NAIA National Championship team during the Grambling series; and

WHEREAS, in conference play, Coach Jackson led the Jaguars to a 17-6 record and a first place finish in the SWAC Western Division; and

WHEREAS, the Jaguars entered the postseason SWAC Tournament at Wesley Barrow Stadium as the number one seed; and

WHEREAS, Southern landed six players on the ALL-SWAC teams, earning the most selections, including four first team picks, and relief pitcher Connor Whalen earned the

league's Relief Pitcher of the Year Award after recording a 4-0 record and seven saves in the regular season; and

WHEREAS, third baseman Tyler LaPorte's season-long talent and ability earned him the co-Player of the Year Award and a First Team ALL-SWAC nod; and

WHEREAS, after navigating the field at the SWAC tournament, the Jaguars dismantled East Division champ Alabama State 15-0 in the championship game on ESPN to capture their first championship since 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Jaguars earned their first trip to a regional tournament in the state of Mississippi since the 2003 team, led by Golden Spikes award-winner Rickie Week stunned Southern Miss 5-3 as the number three seed in the opening game of the Hattiesburg Regional; and

WHEREAS, the Jaguars battled the Mississippi State Bulldogs to a 6-6 tie before losing 11-6 in the opening game of the Starkville Regional, and the Jaguars' magical season ended with a 12-2 loss to the University of Miami Hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, Coach Jackson was named the 2019 SWAC Coach of the Year and Tyler LaPorte was named a Third Team All American by Collegiate Baseball after successfully restoring Jaguar baseball pride during the 2019 season; and

WHEREAS, the Southern University Jaguars baseball team is recognized for the well-deserved accolades earned throughout the season and showcasing the extraordinary athletic abilities they have displayed, particularly at the most difficult level of collegiate competition.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere congratulations to the Southern University Jaguars baseball team and Coach Jackson for their outstanding accomplishments during the 2019 season and for the sportsmanship shown while achieving such high honors for themselves, for Southern University, the city of Baton Rouge, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Kerrick Jackson, head coach of the Southern University baseball team.