

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY SENATORS DUPLESSIS, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, BROOME, CASSIDY, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CRAVINS, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, DUPRE, ERDEY, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, GRAY, HEBERT, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARIONNEAUX, MARTINY, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MORRISH, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SHEPHERD, SMITH, THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH AND REPRESENTATIVES AUSTIN BADON, LEGER AND RICHMOND

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Byron Scott, head coach of the New Orleans Hornets Basketball Team, on being honored as the National Basketball Association Coach of the Year for the 2007-2008 season.

WHEREAS, New Orleans Hornets Coach, Byron Scott, led his team to their first play-off seed in four years; and, on the evening of the award presentation, April 29, 2008, the Hornets beat the Dallas Mavericks, 99-94, in Game-5 of the quarterfinal series to win the Western Conference Division title and to advance to the second round of the NBA playoffs; and

WHEREAS, that evening, in the New Orleans Arena, Byron Scott was presented with the Red Auerbach Trophy in front of a jubilant crowd of adoring fans; his first time to receive this award; and

WHEREAS, the NBA Coach of the Year award is his latest recognition of achievement in the distinguished sports career of Byron Scott, who took over the team during the 2004-2005 season; and

WHEREAS, at that time, he made a bold prediction to team owner, George Shinn, that he would transform the Hornets into a winning NBA franchise in three to four years; as a man true to his word, he made that prophecy come true; and

WHEREAS, Scott was up to the challenge from the first day of practice; he forged a complete team reconstruction with drafts of new talent and trades; all the while, he steadily improved the team's outlook and motivation; and

WHEREAS, the horrific natural disaster, Hurricane Katrina, had the Hornets displaced from their beloved New Orleans to two different venues over two seasons; and

WHEREAS, it was his mental toughness and natural tenacity that held the team together during these difficult times and still managed to guide them to a 38-44 record; and

WHEREAS, Byron Scott has amassed a truly impressive collection of winning records as an exceptional basketball player and coach; beginning with his matriculation at Arizona State University, where he was the all-time leading scorer with 1,752 points and was named First Team All-Pac Ten with game averages of 21.6 points, 5.4 rebounds and 3.1 assists in his senior season; and

WHEREAS, during his professional career, as a player for fourteen years and as a coach for ten years, he reached eight NBA Finals, to win three NBA titles; and

WHEREAS, off the court, Byron Scott has an admirable record of humanitarian service to the community with the establishment of a nonprofit organization, the Byron Scott Children's Fund, that has contributed over six million dollars to various children's charities in the last ten years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Byron Scott, head coach of the New Orleans Hornets Basketball Team, on being named the NBA Coach of the Year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the distinguished accomplishments of Coach Byron Scott brings tremendous pride, honor, and joy to the citizens of the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Byron Scott, head coach of the New Orleans Hornets, and to team owner, George Shinn.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES