

By: Senator(s) Johnson, DeBar, Barnett,
Seymour, McDaniel

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 10

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SPORTS AND CIVIC LEGACY OF COACH
2 L.D. READY, SR., OF RICHTON, MISSISSIPPI.

3 WHEREAS, we join the citizens of Richton, Mississippi, in
4 recognizing the accomplishments and civic contributions and
5 military service of a Hall of Fame Coach from Perry County; and

6 WHEREAS, Louis Dantzler Ready, better known as "L.D." or
7 "Coach Ready," was born in 1931. He was one of eight children
8 born to Quinn and Minnie Ready and grew up in the rural Perry
9 County Community known as "Buck Creek" or "The Flats." He and his
10 younger sister, Edwina, were the only children of Quinn and Minnie
11 Ready who went to college and received a degree; and

12 WHEREAS, L.D. graduated from Runnelstown High School in 1951
13 where he was a four-year starter on the basketball team. His team
14 made it to the state finals his senior year but was defeated by
15 Johnston Station. He was selected to the All-State Team in 1951;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, L.D. received a basketball scholarship to attend
18 Jones County Junior College (JCJC) in 1951 and was a two-year



19 starter for Coach A.B. Howard. Coach Troy Bush also talked him
20 into becoming a member of the tennis team, even though L.D. had
21 never played tennis before. Some of the honors that he received
22 while at JCJC were: Sophomore Class President; Most Friendly;
23 Homecoming King; Mr. JCJC; and Honorable Mention All-State
24 Basketball, two years; and

25 WHEREAS, after attending Jones County Junior College, he
26 attended Delta State on a basketball scholarship, where he was
27 also a two-year starter for the basketball team. He must have
28 enjoyed playing tennis at Jones because he also became a member of
29 the tennis team at Delta State. While attending Delta State, he
30 was voted Most Handsome. It was at Delta State that he met his
31 "Delta Sweetheart," Rose Gibson, who also would become his wife in
32 1956. J.D. graduated from Delta State in 1955 with a Bachelor of
33 Science Degree in Physical Education and a Minor in Mathematics;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, upon his graduation from Delta State in 1955, he
36 received and accepted his first, last and only coaching job at
37 Richton High School as the Head Basketball Coach. Little did he
38 know then, that he would still be coaching and teaching at the
39 same school some 35 years later. He retired from teaching and
40 coaching in 1990; and

41 WHEREAS, during his first year at Richton, the school had no
42 gymnasium, only an outdoor, dirt court to practice on. In 1956,
43 the Mississippi National Guard Armory was built adjacent to the



44 school's property, and the school was able to use its gymnasium
45 until 1975 at which time the Richton School finished construction
46 of its own gymnasium; and

47 WHEREAS, Coach Ready wore many different caps (or whistles)
48 during his 35-year coaching career at Richton High School. In the
49 earlier years, he also served as Assistant Football Coach for the
50 high school football team and served as the Head Basketball Coach
51 for both the girls' and boys' junior and senior high school teams.
52 For several years, he served as the boys' and girls' junior and
53 senior high school track coach. Coach Ready also served as the
54 High School Principal for two years, 1980-1982, and served as the
55 school's Athletic Director for several years. During the
56 springtime and summer months, he coached little league baseball
57 for the Community of Richton; and

58 WHEREAS, L.D. continued his educational pursuit by attending
59 classes at night and during the summer months at William Carey
60 College to get his Master's Degree. That was certainly no easy
61 task for a coach with four children and a wife with her own career
62 in teaching. However, he was able to receive his Master's Degree
63 in Physical Education and Administration in 1978; and

64 WHEREAS, during his coaching career at Richton High School,
65 his teams won many conference, district and south-state titles.
66 During his 35 years as the boys' Head Coach, his varsity teams had
67 winning records for 32 of the 35 basketball seasons, in at least
68 four years in which his Rebels played in the state playoffs in



69 Jackson. Some of the conferences that his teams participated in
70 over the years were the Rebel Conference, Singing River
71 Conference, Cotton Valley Conference, and the Pine Belt
72 Conference. He was voted Conference Coach of Year in 1966, 1967,
73 1981, 1983, 1985 and 1988. He was selected by the *Hattiesburg*
74 *American* as the All-Area Coach of the Year, 1986-1987; and

75 WHEREAS, upon his retirement from teaching and coaching, in
76 1990, the Richton Separate School District named the school's
77 gymnasium "The L.D. Ready Gymnasium" in his honor. A group of his
78 former players have also honored him by establishing "The L.D.
79 Ready Scholarship" that is awarded each year at the Richton High
80 School athletic banquet to an outstanding graduating senior; and

81 WHEREAS, L.D. has been married to his "Delta State
82 Sweetheart," Mattie Rose Ready, for over 60 years. He started
83 coaching in 1955 and was married on May 12, 1956. They have four
84 children: Dan, Sharon, Mart and Lee; and six grandchildren. All
85 four of their children attended JCJC on athletic scholarships.
86 Three of their grandchildren, Drew and Kris Ready, and Lindsey
87 Anderson, have attended JCJC. Coach L.D. Ready is still very
88 active with his work, community, church, family and his Alma
89 Mater, JCJC; and

90 WHEREAS, L.D. joined the Mississippi National Guard in 1955.
91 He retired from the Mississippi National Guard in 1991 after
92 serving over 27 years, an outstanding legacy; and



93 WHEREAS, L.D. served three terms on the Board of Aldermen for
94 the Town of Richton. He also worked part-time for the
95 Perry-Forrest County Soil & Water Conservation District as a
96 District Technician. He has been employed with them since 1991;
97 and

98 WHEREAS, L.D. has been a member of the Richton United
99 Methodist Church since 1956. He has served as Sunday School
100 Teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, member of the Properties
101 and Finance Committees, and Lay Leader. He teaches the Senior
102 Adults Sunday School Class; and

103 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we honor a great
104 Mississippian, whose character, hard work, athletic ability, faith
105 in God and enormous community spirit are an example to all
106 citizens in Mississippi:

107 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
108 OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize the sports and civic
109 legacy of Coach L.D. Ready, Sr., of Richton, Mississippi, and
110 extend to Coach L.D. and his family our best wishes.

111 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented
112 to Coach L.D. Ready and his family, forwarded to the Board of
113 Aldermen of the Town of Richton, and be made available to the
114 Capitol Press Corps.

