

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 64

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARRAS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Alfred W. "Butch" Speer on the momentous occasion of his retirement after thirty-five years of service as Clerk of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, thirty-five years ago, when the House of Representatives convened for the 1984 legislative session, the members of that body elected a thirty-one-year-old attorney as Clerk of the House, Alfred William Speer, II; and

WHEREAS, at the time of this election, Mr. Speer was no stranger to the Louisiana Legislature; he had served as assistant head page while a student at the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, thereafter serving as head page of the Constitutional Convention of 1973, a Louisiana Legislative Council law clerk, an assistant to the House front desk, assistant clerk to David R. Poynter, and acting clerk from April 25, 1983, to March 12, 1984; and

WHEREAS, over the years, his knowledge of the rules and procedures of the House of Representatives and his impartial and enthusiastic advice and counsel demonstrated his unwavering dedication to the legislative branch of state government; he was elected a total of seven times to a staff position of utmost importance to the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Speer has been repeatedly recognized by his peers and has served in a number of leadership roles; in 2011, he was elected to chair the Mason's Manual Commission, which is charged with editing the 2020 edition of the handbook that is used by most state legislatures as the basis of their procedures; he has served as the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) staff chair, president of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS), and chair and vice chair of numerous NCSL committees, including staff chair of the NCSL Redistricting and Elections Committee; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, ASLCS awarded Butch the Joseph A. Beek Award, the society's highest award, presented for exemplary and extraordinary service to the society, and in 2009, he received the society's annual Legislative Staff Achievement Award in recognition of his excellence in supporting the work of the legislature and strengthening the legislative institution; and

WHEREAS, since 1976, Butch has served under ten Speakers of the House and has earned the highest respect of the members of both houses of the legislature, impressed his colleagues as a model and ideal parliamentarian, and conducted himself as a true gentleman with decency and patience; and

WHEREAS, Butch has been at the forefront of numerous improvements in Louisiana's legislative procedures that have facilitated citizen awareness of and involvement in the business of state government; and

WHEREAS, Butch is supported by his loving wife, Carol, is the proud father of Morgan and Kent, and is the grandfather of Davis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Speer will be greatly missed by the members and staff of the Louisiana Legislature who have come to respect and admire him and value his advice and friendship; and

WHEREAS, if democracy is going to work, someone must do the work of democracy, and for his entire professional career Butch Speer has been one of those someones, standing strong and fighting the great fight for the principles of representative democracy in the face of pressures that tend to subvert those principles; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Speer is an inspiration to anyone committed to public service, and he merits the highest commendation for his contributions to the state, whose citizens will long reap the benefits of his legacy of excellence and professionalism.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Alfred W. "Butch" Speer on his retirement after thirty-five years of service as Clerk of the Louisiana House of Representatives; does hereby record and recognize his manifold contributions to the Legislature of Louisiana and the people of this state; and does hereby extend the tribute and appreciation of the members of the legislature to this extraordinary gentleman for his achievements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
Alfred W. "Butch" Speer.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE