

2017 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY REPRESENTATIVES BARRAS, ROBBY CARTER, LEGER, ABRAHAM, ABRAMSON, AMEDEE, ANDERS, ARMES, BACALA, BAGLEY, BAGNERIS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BOUIE, BROADWATER, CHAD BROWN, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COUSSAN, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DAVIS, DEVILLIER, DWIGHT, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FALCONER, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GLOVER, GUINN, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, LANCE HARRIS, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HORTON, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, ROBERT JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEOPOLD, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, PEARSON, PIERRE, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THOMAS, WHITE, AND ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To commend and express appreciation to Ben W. Nevers, Sr., of Bogalusa upon his retirement as chief of staff of the governor of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that a special measure of commendation be extended to Ben W. Nevers, Sr., as he prepares to retire as chief of staff of the governor of Louisiana and to honor him with the abiding affection and utmost respect of the Louisiana House of Representatives, where he began his long and highly productive tenure of state public service; and

WHEREAS, Ben Nevers is held in the highest esteem as a longtime public servant whose excellence as a state legislator merited his consistent reelection to office over seventeen years, during which time he fully used every opportunity to serve the citizens of St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington parishes and the state in an honorable manner; and

WHEREAS, Ben Nevers, the son of the late Iva Magee Nevers and Ben H. Nevers, was sworn in as the representative for House District No. 75 on May 6, 1999, and was reelected without opposition for the 2000-2004 term; and

WHEREAS, during his service in the House of Representatives, Representative Nevers was a valued contributor to House deliberations, providing consistently wise insight as a member of the House Committee on Commerce, the House Committee on Education, and the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations and focusing his efforts largely on important education and labor issues; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2003, Mr. Nevers was elected to represent District No. 12 in the Louisiana Senate, where he served with great diligence for three consecutive terms, lending his time and talents as a member of several Senate committees, including Judiciary A and Labor and Industrial Relations as chairman; Education as chair and vice chairman; Health and Welfare; Agriculture; Retirement; Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; Transportation, Highways, and Public Works; and the Senate Select Committee on Vocational and Technical Education; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nevers' long tenure in the legislature was winding down due to term limits at the end of 2015 when he was called upon and accepted graciously the request to remain in public service; upon his election in November, Governor-Elect John Bel Edwards selected Mr. Nevers to serve as his chief of staff, and it is difficult to imagine a person better suited to have filled this vital position; and

WHEREAS, as Governor Edwards' chief of staff, Mr. Nevers played a very significant role in helping the governor lead the state through some of the most challenging times in recent memory, including a severe and ongoing budget crisis and historic floods in both the northern and southern parts of the state; his long legislative experience, vast breadth of knowledge on a wide range of key state issues, and skill at working and negotiating across partisan lines made him invaluable as the leader of the governor's team; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his steadfast commitment to public service, Mr. Nevers is a striking example of one who has enthusiastically embraced the fundamental priorities of a life fully lived, especially through his devotion to his family – his wife, Barbara Ann Williams Nevers; his three children, Ben, Jr., Julie, and Andy; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nevers is a graduate of Bogalusa High School, attended the Louisiana Technical College, and is the president and chief executive officer of Nevers Electrical and Contracting, which he founded nearly forty years ago; his professional, civic,

and business affiliations over the years have included his membership on the Bogalusa City School Board from 1987 until 1994; his membership in the Louisiana Association of Marine Dealers, the National Electrical Contractors Association, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; and his longtime service as a deacon and active member of Memorial Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, no recognition of Mr. Nevers is complete without noting that seldom has there been a public servant who enjoys a greater reputation; he is known for keeping his word, for accomplishing much through his personal credibility and integrity, and for never placing party or politics above serving the greater good; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep faith, in his farewell address to the Senate on May 27, 2015, Mr. Nevers said, "There's a time to come and a time to go; it's my time to go ... I want to thank my Lord and savior for giving me this opportunity ... I thank Him for giving me the opportunity, the health, and the strength to serve this great state ... I would have not made it without Him ... His goodness and mercy have been with me all this way and will continue to be with me and you"; and

WHEREAS, it is the sincere hope of the members of the Louisiana House of Representatives that God's goodness and mercy will continue to be with Ben Nevers, whom they will forever admire as a determined man of principle, an exemplar of decency, and a statesman who represents all that is good about the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Ben W. Nevers, Sr., merits a special commendation and heartfelt appreciation for the tremendous pride, honor, and joy he brings to his family, friends, and community, the legislature, and the entire state of Louisiana, which will long reap the benefits of his distinguished legacy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Ben W. Nevers, Sr., of Bogalusa and extend to him honor and recognition for his outstanding accomplishments and particularly his excellence in state public service as a seventeen-year-member of the legislature representing the citizens of St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington parishes, and later as chief of staff of the governor of Louisiana; does hereby pay tribute to him for the generous and effective way in which he has dedicated his intelligence and his energy to the service of others; and does extend to this wonderful man every good wish for success, happiness, and

richest blessings as he embarks on the next chapter of his life and in all of his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Ben W. Nevers, Sr.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES