

2016 Second Extraordinary Session
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 29
BY REPRESENTATIVE CROMER

A RESOLUTION

To commend Theresa Harper Ray upon her retirement from House Legislative Services.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Theresa Harper Ray upon her retirement from House Legislative Services (HLS) and to recognize her commitment and contributions to the Louisiana House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, after thirty-six years as a dedicated member of the legislative staff of the Louisiana House of Representatives, Theresa Harper Ray is retiring in July of 2016 from her position as senior legislative analyst with the House Committee on Insurance; and

WHEREAS, the oldest of six children, Theresa Harper was born during the cherry blossom season in Washington, D. C., at Georgetown University Hospital to Robert and Ramona Harper; and

WHEREAS, Theresa was educated in the Catholic schools in Metairie and graduated from Archbishop Chapelle High School in 1975; and

WHEREAS, a gifted student, Theresa earned an academic scholarship to Louisiana State University (LSU) where she was a member of Angel Flight and the prestigious academic honor society, Phi Beta Kappa; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Theresa received a bachelor of arts degree, graduating with a 4.0 cumulative grade point average and earned the University Medal, an award given to students for "highest academic achievement"; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 1980, Theresa began her long and distinguished career as a research analyst with the Louisiana Legislative Council of the Louisiana Legislature; and

WHEREAS, shortly after her arrival in 1981, the Louisiana Legislative Council divided its staff thereby creating House Legislative Services and Theresa chose to continue her career with HLS; and

WHEREAS, it was also in 1981 when Theresa met and began dating David Ray; and

WHEREAS, Theresa continued her education while working full time for HLS and in 1983, she earned a master's degree in Public Administration from LSU; and

WHEREAS, Theresa and David enjoyed a three-year courtship and married on September 8, 1984; and

WHEREAS, one of Theresa's proudest moments occurred on October 22, 1988, when she gave birth to their son, Matthew Joseph Ray, who is the light of her life and the apple of her eye; and

WHEREAS, during the course of her thirty-six year career, Theresa has worked as a research analyst, conducting research and drafting bills, for several legislative committees, numerous chairmen, and countless legislators; and

WHEREAS, early in her career, Theresa staffed the House Committee on Health and Welfare chaired by Representative Nick Connor; the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs chaired by Representatives John N. John, Jr., Joe Delpit, Diana Bajoie, and Arthur Morrell; the House Committee on Commerce chaired by Representatives Dale Sittig and John Travis; and the House Committee on Appropriations chaired by Representative Jerry Luke LeBlanc; and

WHEREAS, since 1998, Theresa has served with great distinction as the senior legislative analyst for the House Committee on Insurance chaired by Representatives Jim Donelon, Troy Hebert, Karen Carter, Chuck Kleckley, Greg Cromer, and Kirk Talbot; and

WHEREAS, Theresa has also served under the leadership of nine speakers of the House of Representatives: John Hainkel, John Alario, Jimmy Dimos, Hunt Downer, Charlie DeWitt, Joe Salter, Jim Tucker, Chuck Kleckley, and Taylor Barras; and

WHEREAS, Theresa's experience and depth of knowledge on a broad range of subjects have been an invaluable source to those who work with her; and

WHEREAS, Theresa has developed and cultivated relationships with colleagues and friends that will last well beyond her years with HLS; and

WHEREAS, the staff of HLS, particularly the Commercial Regulation Division, will miss her smile, guidance, friendship, and the bouquets of fresh flowers she supplied that complemented her office and the ninth floor of the Louisiana State Capitol.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Theresa Harper Ray, senior legislative analyst, upon the occasion of her retirement after thirty-six years, for her service to the Legislature of Louisiana and the House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives, on behalf of the members and staff, does hereby recognize and record for posterity Theresa Harper Ray's outstanding accomplishments and manifold contributions, does hereby express enduring appreciation for the tremendous honor and pride that she brings to her family, friends, colleagues, and the state of Louisiana, and does hereby extend to her every good wish for success and happiness in all of her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mrs. Theresa Harper Ray.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES