

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 72

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEOPOLD

A RESOLUTION

To commend Earl Armstrong, Jr., for his many contributions to Plaquemines Parish.

WHEREAS, Earl Armstrong is a cattle rancher in Plaquemines Parish who grew up along the river in Pilottown and is dedicated to the parish where he and his wife of nearly forty-nine years, Lynn Loga, have raised their five children; and

WHEREAS, Earl Armstrong heard stories in his youth about the land-building power of the Mississippi River and has fought valiantly for the West Bay Diversion of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, thanks in large part to Mr. Armstrong, in 2002, the Army Corps of Engineers cut a hole in the Mississippi River levee to mimic nature and free the river to build new land; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, with the urging of Mr. Armstrong, the corps put in an artificial island a few miles away that slowed the flow of the river water through the levee cut, which allowed sandbars to form; and

WHEREAS, within six months of the construction of the artificial island, land rapidly began to emerge and vegetation took over, offering nesting areas for various birds and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Mr. Armstrong's efforts in advocating for the West Bay project to remain open and build much-needed critical habitat, the Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection, and Restoration Authority voted to keep West Bay open; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Armstrong lobbied to numerous local, state, and federal leaders in an effort to convince them that the closure of West Bay would have been a substantial blow to coastal restoration; and

WHEREAS, when virtually everyone else had given up on West Bay, Mr. Armstrong consistently believed that sandbars and land would start to build up as a result of the diversion; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the courageous efforts of Mr. Armstrong, the West Bay Diversion is a thriving success and provides a buffer to the rest of Plaquemines Parish against oncoming hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Armstrong merits a special measure of commendation for his remarkable contributions to Plaquemines Parish and the state of Louisiana through his dauntless commitment to coastal restoration and for the tremendous pride that his friends, family, community, and the state have in the success of the West Bay project for which he worked so hard.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Earl Armstrong, Jr., for his selfless contributions to West Bay and Plaquemines Parish, does hereby recognize the extraordinary impact he has had on the restoration, protection, and preservation of the coast in Plaquemines Parish, does hereby record for posterity his tireless and dedicated efforts to keep the West Bay freshwater and sediment diversion project operational, and does hereby extend to him every good wish for continued success, prosperity, and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Earl Armstrong, Jr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES