

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 81

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHEAT

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. John L. Crain on the occasion of his retirement as president of Southeastern Louisiana University.

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2009, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System appointed Dr. John L. Crain the fourteenth president of Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU), and at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year, Dr. Crain will retire from the university as one of its longest serving and most successful presidents; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Crain was very much a Southeastern insider when he was appointed as president, having received his bachelor's degree (accounting, 1981) and his master of business administration (1984) from SLU and spent his academic career there; prior to becoming president, Dr. Crain served as a member of the accounting faculty, director of the Small Business Development Center, and provost and vice president for academic affairs; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Crain's exemplary academic accomplishments include authoring more than fifty refereed journal articles, receiving the President's Award for Excellence in Research, which is the university's highest faculty award, and service on the Louisiana Blue Ribbon Commission on Educational Excellence and the Board of Regents Master Plan National Advisory Panel Workgroup on Retention and Completion; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Crain's tenure as president was no doubt marked by numerous daily challenges of types that would be faced by the head of any large institution, but in his fourteen years at the helm, he also had to manage the university's response to crises that no one could have foreseen, including several years of sizable state budget reductions stemming in part from a major national economic crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and Hurricane Ida, which passed directly over the campus and did substantial damage to the Hammond campus; and

WHEREAS, throughout it all, Dr. Crain did more than simply keeping the university afloat; he managed to oversee major facility improvements, including completion of the new student union and new residential facilities, the launch of several new academic programs and new academic support and campus life initiatives, some unprecedented successes in Lion athletics, and significant expansion of the Southeastern Foundation; and

WHEREAS, nothing is more important to the health and happiness of the citizens of the great state of Louisiana than individuals who invest their considerable personal talent in the service of the public good; Dr. John Crain has spent his professional career, including his tenure as president of Southeastern Louisiana University, making just that investment, and it is appropriate that the state should take this opportunity to recognize and honor him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. John L. Crain on the occasion of his retirement as president of Southeastern Louisiana University; does hereby record for posterity some of his notable accomplishments and honorable service to the state; and does hereby express its sincerest hope that he continue to find success and fulfillment in the next chapter of his life.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES