

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 117

BY SENATOR PERRY

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Paul Loren Kedinger upon the occasion of his retirement following a remarkable fifty year career in journalism.

WHEREAS, Paul Kedinger and his three siblings spent their early years on their family dairy farm before moving to and attending school in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, in his teen years, Paul Kedinger felt that he had a calling to become a Catholic priest and after high school he went on to graduate from St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, becoming aware that perhaps his future did not lie in serving the church as a priest, Paul Kedinger enrolled in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, School of Journalism and Mass Communication; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kedinger walked into his first graduate school class and took a seat next to a young woman, Wanda Hudgins, who would become his wife and the two have enjoyed a long and happy marriage; and

WHEREAS, Paul Kedinger attended graduate school part-time and worked full-time and while a graduate student he founded the Scriblirious Club, a networking group for faculty and graduate students involved in the study of journalism; and

WHEREAS, during graduate school Mr. Kedinger became interested in the area of community journalism, a decision that led to his first job after graduation as editor at the *Lake Geneva Regional News* in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and later to become the editor and advertising manager at the *New Holstein Reporter* in New Holstein, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, after more than four years in New Holstein, Paul Kedinger's father-in-law, Harold Hudgins, encouraged Paul and Wanda to move home to Oakdale, Louisiana, and Paul would work at Hudgins' *Oakdale Beacon*; and

WHEREAS, the Kedingers relocated to Oakdale, Louisiana, and when Harold Hudgins retired, Paul Kedinger became editor and publisher of the *Beacon*; and

WHEREAS, for the next eight years, Mr. Kedinge converted the paper from a free-circulation publication, funded only through advertising, to a newspaper delivered to paying subscribers through the postal service; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, Paul Kedinge sold the newspaper and operated Images, Etc., an advertising and public relations firm for one year before becoming the editor of the *Ville Platte Gazette*, a position he held for the next eleven years; and

WHEREAS, eventually, Mr. Kedinge left the *Gazette* to work for Louisiana State Newspapers, a chain of smaller newspapers around the state, where he worked on special projects; and

WHEREAS, in his work for Louisiana State Newspapers, Mr. Kedinge traveled the state hiring and training editors until the acquisitions of the company began to slow as the newspaper business throughout the country stagnated; and

WHEREAS, Paul Kedinge's employer at Louisiana Newspapers requested that he move to Rayne to serve as the managing editor of the *Rayne Acadian-Tribune*, a paper owned by the company; and

WHEREAS, for twenty years, Mr. Kedinge held the position of managing editor until his retirement in April, 2016; and

WHEREAS, throughout his fifty year career in journalism, Paul Kedinge trained and mentored countless young women and men who went on to become well-respected journalists and positive contributors to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kedinge eventually tried his hand at religious journalism, what he first thought was his journalistic destiny, and for the last five years and at the request of the bishop, he has served on the Lafayette diocesan board of communication; and

WHEREAS, Paul Kedinge plans to continue writing on a freelance basis on his computer at his father-in-law's rolltop desk, maintaining the link between the two generations of the Hudgins-Kedinge family and their community; and

WHEREAS, over the fifty years of a career marked by declines in support for and readership of newspapers, Paul Kedinge has strengthened the bond between smaller communities and their newspapers, living the principles of journalism learned at the University of Wisconsin and reinforced by all the editors and publishers for whom he was

fortunate to work; and

WHEREAS, retirement will bring more time to spend with his wife, for whom he says he became a "Cajun convert", his sons and their families, including his twelve grandchildren.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Paul Kedingler upon the occasion of his retirement following a remarkable fifty year career in journalism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Paul Kedingler.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE