

2019 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 142

BY SENATOR ALARIO

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Norby Chabert on his service in the Senate.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Honorable Norbèrt Nolty "Norby"Chabert, State Senator, for his years of
3 exemplary public service in the Louisiana Legislature and to express appreciation for
4 his many contributions made on behalf of his constituents and the citizens of the
5 state of Louisiana.

6 WHEREAS, upon winning a special election in 2009, Norby Chabert hit the ground
7 running as perhaps the most experienced and savvy freshman senator that had not previously
8 held political office; and

9 WHEREAS, Norby represents Senatorial District 20 "down the bayou" encompassing
10 the coastal regions of Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes, previously represented by his
11 father, the late Leonard J. Chabert (1980-1991) and brother, Marty J. Chabert (1992-1996);
12 and

13 WHEREAS, together, they were honored by the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in
14 2013 with the inaugural "Louisiana Political Family of Officeholders Award"; and

15 WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Louisiana Senate, Norby has served as chair and
16 vice chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, chair of the Select Committee on
17 Vocational and Technical Education, vice chair of the Committee on Finance, and as a
18 member of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs,

1 the Committee on Judiciary B, the Committee on Retirement, the Committee on Health and
2 Welfare, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, among others; and

3 WHEREAS, honoring his rural upbringing down the bayou, Senator Chabert joined
4 the Louisiana Rural Caucus and the Acadiana Delegation; and

5 WHEREAS, his first year in the Senate was punctuated by the Deepwater Horizon
6 oil spill which had a devastating impact on all aspects of his coastal district, an area that
7 balances jobs in the oil and gas service industry with one of the nation's most productive
8 seafood estuaries and a hub of commercial and recreational fishing activities, and he worked
9 tirelessly to bring recovery to this area; and

10 WHEREAS, Port Fourchon, located on the southernmost point of Lafourche Parish,
11 is the largest energy port in the world, servicing more than ninety percent of deepwater
12 activity in the Gulf of Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, Norby has championed the expansion of Port Fourchon,
14 Port Terrebonne, and all other Louisiana ports, deepening and dredging projects throughout
15 the state through capital outlay projects, creating the Waterway Dredging and Deepening
16 Priority Program, and establishing the office of multimodal commerce; and

17 WHEREAS, in creating the office of multimodal commerce, Senator Chabert's
18 strategic vision of building the state's infrastructure in coordination with the needs of
19 business and industry, while acting as a conduit for stakeholders to influence public
20 priorities, was realized; and

21 WHEREAS, throughout his career in the Senate, Norby stood as an unwavering
22 advocate of higher education and job training as the standard-bearer for his alma mater,
23 Nicholls State University and the Fletcher Technical Community College; and

24 WHEREAS, during tough budget times, he zealously protected these institutions and
25 even improved campus infrastructure with construction of a state-of-the-art building, now
26 home to the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University, which offers one
27 of the few culinary arts four-year degree programs in the country; and

28 WHEREAS, witnessing the many life experiences of family and friends, Norby has
29 developed a passion for healthcare, particularly care for those on the lower end of the
30 economic spectrum; and

1 WHEREAS, when a change in federal policy regarding reimbursements dictated that
2 the old charity hospital system could not survive in its current form, Norby played a key role
3 in the creation of the public-private healthcare partnership widely considered as the model
4 for others to emulate, preserved the healthcare safety net, and kept the Leonard J. Chabert
5 Medical Center - renamed in honor of its founder and Norby's father in 1992 - in Houma
6 open; and

7 WHEREAS, embracing his French heritage, he has strongly supported CODOFIL
8 through the years; and

9 WHEREAS, always looking for opportunities to improve the efficiency of
10 government, Senator Chabert cut through yards of red tape by allowing the Department of
11 Culture, Recreation and Tourism to utilize private vendors for services and kept many state
12 parks open to the public; and

13 WHEREAS, spending most of his life on the banks of Bayou Little Caillou, Norby
14 has personally experienced the coastal land loss and survived numerous hurricanes and
15 floods that have repeatedly devastated his area, in a way few outside of the region can
16 comprehend; and

17 WHEREAS, throughout his tenure in the Senate, Norby has been the most vocal and
18 knowledgeable advocate for hurricane protection and coastal restoration projects, while
19 immersing himself in the policies and priorities of the coast; and

20 WHEREAS, through his leadership and decade of service on the Senate Natural
21 Resources Committee and as the Senate's representative on the Coastal Protection and
22 Restoration Authority Board, Norby has positively impacted these policies and priorities by
23 enacting much needed reforms; and

24 WHEREAS, his personal experiences with hurricanes, storm surge, saltwater
25 intrusion, and coastal erosion had a direct impact on Norby's decision to seek the vacant
26 Senate District 20 seat in 2009; and

27 WHEREAS, he graduated from South Terrebonne High School and attended the
28 University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL); and

29 WHEREAS, while attending ULL, Norby created many lifelong friendships and
30 grew to appreciate the beauty and unique culture of the prairie region of Acadiana; and

1 WHEREAS, despite his love for ULL, the bayou called him home, and Norby
2 transferred to his beloved Nicholls State University, participating in student government,
3 theater, and intramural sports, while graduating with a bachelor's degree in government; and

4 WHEREAS, two of his greatest life experiences during this period included studying
5 abroad in Costa Rica and running with the bulls in Spain; and

6 WHEREAS, soon after graduation, Norby moved to New Orleans and began his
7 career as a political consultant working for candidates of both parties in statewide and
8 congressional campaigns; and

9 WHEREAS, as a consultant, a bipartisan spirit was ignited in Norby where, as an
10 elected official, he always sought to find common ground, seek out pragmatic compromises,
11 and ensure that government meets the needs of the people in a fiscally responsible manner;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, living in New Orleans in August of 2005, Norby was one of the last
14 evacuees to leave prior to Hurricane Katrina making landfall and overwhelming the city; and

15 WHEREAS, after the storm subsided, Norby relocated to his hometown of Chauvin
16 and four weeks later found himself flooded out, along with more than ten thousand other
17 residents of lower Terrebonne Parish, by the devastating storm surge resulting from
18 Hurricane Rita's impact to the west; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2008, his home and community were once again ravaged by
20 back-to-back Category Four Hurricanes Gustav and Ike; and

21 WHEREAS, while previously content in private life, Norby was compelled by these
22 disasters to make a difference through public service; and

23 WHEREAS, Norby is the son of the late Leonard J. Chabert and Viona Lapeyrouse
24 Chabert, and the brother of Donna, Marty, Lori, and Lenny, and their spouses O'Neal,
25 Elodie, Kirby, and Patti, respectively, and uncle to numerous nieces and nephews, as well
26 as a growing number of great-nieces and nephews; and

27 WHEREAS, Norby loves to garden and frequently utilizes his produce when he
28 cooks at family gatherings and community events; and

29 WHEREAS, participation in local civic clubs and charitable organizations such as
30 the Colonel Athletic Association, the Krewe of Houmas, the Knights of Columbus, the

