

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 145

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ADLEY, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Honorable Sherri Smith Buffington, the distinguished senator from Senate District No. 38, for her years of dedicated public service to this body and to the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Senator Sherri Buffington is one of a growing number of female-elected officials in state government; she has been recognized by her peers for her firm commitment to her constituency, her compassion, her graciousness, and her persuasive nature; and

WHEREAS, Sherri Smith began her work in the Louisiana Senate in 1992 as the legislative aide to her friend and mentor, the late Senator Ron Bean, an affable gentleman who represented the city of Shreveport, all of Caddo, and those portions of DeSoto Parish that comprised the district; and

WHEREAS, Sherri had the best possible on-the-job training in legislative procedure; she honed her skills while observing the rigors of committee preparation, constituent inquiries, compromise, and political alliances; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, with Ron Bean's blessing, she ran a successful campaign in a four-candidate race and was elected to represent the district composed of diverse urban and rural landscapes; Senator Buffington bears the distinction as the first female Republican elected to the Senate of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, with her finger on the pulse of her district and the surrounding Ark-La-Tex region, Senator Buffington is mindful of the economic stimulus needed for continued growth and dynamic business and industrial opportunities; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Senator Buffington has taken a particular interest in

health care funding that strengthens a superb research and medical community that includes the Louisiana State University Health Science Center at Shreveport, the LSU School of Medicine, and over thirty other hospitals and specialty medical centers that serve a regional population of one-half million; and

WHEREAS, Senator Buffington is known as a strong supporter of law enforcement, elder care protective services, and equitable medical treatment options for children and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, during her time at the Louisiana Senate, she has served fervently on the standing committees on Finance, Environmental Quality, Health and Welfare, Transportation, Highways and Public Works as vice chairman, Labor and Industrial Relations, Local and Municipal Affairs, and on the select committees of Homeland Security as chairman, Veterans Affairs, Women and Children as vice chairman, the Senate Executive Committee, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget; and

WHEREAS, as an even-tempered lawmaker, in 2015, Sherri Buffington gave wholehearted support to a civility initiative known as *Speak Your Peace*, a grassroots effort to restore courtesy in public discourse; it is a simple expression of politeness that when adopted in a discussion of ideas all participants are respectful of alternative points of view, to honor the position of others, to seek understanding, and to accept responsibility for one's behavior; and

WHEREAS, Senator Buffington has worked tirelessly for various civic causes and served on local boards to improve the quality of life in her community as a member of the DeSoto Parish Chamber of Commerce, the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, and the Southern Hills Business Association; and

WHEREAS, Sherri Buffington has been honored for her community service with many well-deserved accolades too numerous to count; and

WHEREAS, as an avid naturalist and steward of the Sportsman's Paradise, she holds membership in the recreational organizations of Women in the Outdoors, and the National Wild Turkey Federation; and

WHEREAS, Sherri is an active member of the Summer Grove Baptist Church, a Christian with a warm and generous heart who shares her invaluable knowledge with others, and she proves to be a woman of many talents and true to her word; and

WHEREAS, having served this body for over two decades as a fair-minded, trusted public servant, Sherri Smith Buffington has proved that her dedication to the betterment of this state and its people is without par; and

WHEREAS, held in high regard as an exceptional member of the Louisiana Legislature by her fellow statesmen on both sides of the aisle, Senator Buffington merits a sincere measure of acknowledgment for her extraordinary accomplishments as she prepares to begin the next productive chapter of her life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Honorable Sherri Smith Buffington for her faithful service performed on the behalf of her constituency and for the betterment of all of the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its hardy congratulations for a job well done and convey its best wishes for all her future aspirations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Sherri Smith Buffington, state senator for Senatorial District 38.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE