

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 146

BY SENATOR JOHN SMITH

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Mayor Ron Roberts of DeRidder, Louisiana, upon his retirement after three terms as mayor.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Mayor Ron Roberts of DeRidder, Louisiana, upon his retirement after serving
3 three terms in office, marked by sound fiscal management and an improved quality
4 of life in DeRidder.

5 WHEREAS, Mayor Ron Roberts will end his elective service after three terms as
6 mayor of DeRidder, which is located primarily in Beauregard Parish, having led that city
7 during a time of increasing prosperity and improving quality of life; and

8 WHEREAS, Ron Roberts is especially proud of being a fifth generation native of
9 Beauregard Parish, following his grandfather who practiced medicine in DeRidder for
10 fifty-one years and his parents who practiced optometry in DeRidder for forty-two years; and

11 WHEREAS, after graduation from DeRidder High School in 1962, Ron Roberts
12 attended Baylor University in Waco, Texas, earning a bachelor's degree in 1965 and a PhD
13 in 1970 and in the following years he completed additional postgraduate work at Tulane
14 University and at the University of Texas; and

15 WHEREAS, Mayor Roberts taught at three universities and served as a college
16 coach, athletic director, and development and public relations director, but the call to return
17 to his native DeRidder and to perpetuate his family legacy in Beauregard Parish was
18 considerable and, in 1979, this native son returned and opened the first Edwards Jones

1 office, bringing that financial services company to the parish; and

2 WHEREAS, from 1992 until his retirement in 1997, Ron Roberts worked for
3 Amerisafe Corporation Insurance Company and served as director of corporate relations; and

4 WHEREAS, an active participant in his community, Ron Roberts is a past member
5 and president of both the Beauregard Parish Library Board and the Beauregard Parish
6 Tourist Commission, has served on various committees to save important buildings in
7 DeRidder, and was a member of the Federal Emergency Management Administration's
8 Louisiana Recovery team and the Chamber of Commerce; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2006 Ron Roberts was first elected to serve as the mayor of
10 DeRidder, campaigning on a platform of good fiscal policy and prudent management of city
11 government; and

12 WHEREAS, Mayor Roberts set about bringing good fiscal policy in addition to
13 successful and prudent management of city government and he kept his promise to the
14 citizens, with eight consecutive years of "clean audits"; and

15 WHEREAS, during his three terms as mayor of his hometown, Ron Roberts has been
16 an enthusiastic supporter of DeRidder, especially noting that the city has "made great
17 progress on improving the quality of living"; and

18 WHEREAS, upon his election to a third consecutive term in April 2014, Mayor
19 Roberts stated that responsible city government had "reduced the city's debt to zero and we
20 have established the largest cash reserves in the city's history", not an insignificant
21 achievement during a time of economic stagnation across the country; and

22 WHEREAS, Mayor Roberts has continually encouraged his constituents to believe
23 that the city can be improved, even when most people are contented with the status quo, and
24 he has urged everyone in the community to focus on achieving one goal of making DeRidder
25 a place where the city's children want to live and raise their families; and

26 WHEREAS, in what would become Ron Roberts' last campaign, he had only a single
27 challenger and was able to garner more than seventy-three percent of the ballots cast, a huge
28 vote of confidence in his leadership through the previous eight years; and

29 WHEREAS, Mayor Ron Roberts has served his community well and his dedication
30 to a great future for DeRidder and her citizens is obvious when considering his service in

1 elective office as well as his participation in, and often leadership of, local organizations
2 tasked with serving the citizens of the mayor's beloved native city and parish, DeRidder,
3 Louisiana and Beauregard Parish.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
5 does hereby commend Mayor Ron Roberts of DeRidder, Louisiana, upon his retirement after
6 serving three terms in office marked by sound fiscal management and an improved quality
7 of life in DeRidder.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
9 Mayor Ron Roberts.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

SR 146 Original

DIGEST
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