

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 150

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

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Honorable Ben Wayne Nevers Sr. for two decades of legislative and local public service and to express enduring gratitude for his outstanding contributions made on the behalf of the constituents of the parishes of St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington and the state of Louisiana, particularly his tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana State Senate representing District No. 12 and the Louisiana House of Representatives representing District No. 75 for a total of seventeen years as a legislator, and to offer the best wishes of his fellow senators as he returns to the private sector and determines his next avenue of interest.

WHEREAS, Senator Nevers is well known as a kind, caring servant of the people who has demonstrated a personal commitment to representing his constituents with honor and respect and to the best of his abilities as a Christian with a profound faith in God; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nevers has always acted on the tenet of "do the right thing" as he addresses the complex issues affecting the district, including education, economic development, workforce training, health care, infrastructure, and farming interests; and

WHEREAS, in each situation, his approach is to dispatch the matter in the most direct, yet courteous manner possible; he never sidestepped an issue; he focuses on the problem at hand and considers every possible solution with respect to the consequences affecting all parties in the process; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Senator Nevers served with great diligence on Senate standing committees on Judiciary A and Labor and Industrial Relations as chairman and Education as chair and vice chairman, and as a member on Health and Welfare, Agriculture, Retirement, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, and Transportation, Highways, and Public Works, and the Senate Select Committee on Vocational and Technical Education; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal matters of the state held his attention with his monitoring of the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay and Legislative Audit Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, Ben Nevers lauds a lofty principle from Thomas Jefferson that states, "*An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people,*" and he recognizes that an educated populace ensures both economic success and individual prosperity; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to improve educational opportunities on all levels began as an elected member of the Bogalusa City School Board and continued as he served on the Senate Education Committee; he lent his expertise to numerous state committees and commissions on civic education, tuition, high school redesign, early childhood education, textbooks, libraries, assessment testing, and the Blue Ribbon Commission for Education Excellence; and he cast a broad net to garner research from national coalitions such as the Education Commission of the States, the Southern Legislative Conference, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) Education Task Force, and the Southern Regional Education Board Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, early in life, Senator Nevers trained as a journeyman electrician and became president and CEO of NECO Inc., his own successful contracting firm; his life experience has reenforced his concept of job training for local commercial ventures and state industrial employment demands; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nevers promoted job training through articulation of workforce development curricula at community and technical colleges, enabling course credits to be easily transferred between institutions to aid successful completion of craft certification; and

WHEREAS, Senate District No. 12 is primarily a rural setting of farming interests that produce a cornucopia of agricultural products; Senator Nevers addresses the needs of the dairy and forestry industries in the Washington Parish Forestry Landowners Association and both the Washington Parish and Louisiana Cattlemen's Associations, and supports agribusiness education through involvement with 4-H Clubs, the Future Farmers of America, and the Louisiana Northshore (Parishes) Delegation; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nevers has been the deserving recipient of copious honors throughout the course of his exemplary career that are too numerous to count; he has been celebrated for his professional, civic, legislative, and business achievements year after year; some of his latest awards include the Mondale-Brooke Award for Fair Housing Leadership and Civic Participation, the Louisiana Association for Justice Public Service Award, the Optometry Association of Louisiana Statesman of the Year Award, an Honorary State FFA Degree from the Louisiana Future Farmers of America, and the establishment and dedication of the Senator Ben Nevers Medical Library for Our Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa in appreciation of his continued support of rural health care funding; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nevers has a very special place in his heart for the medically needy, the elderly, and the very young of this state who depend on the viable funding of rural health care facilities; he has been a champion for small hospitals around the state; and

WHEREAS, with his commitment to Louisianians through efforts to improve employment opportunity, education, economic growth, transportation infrastructure, and health care, the good works of Senator Ben Nevers will be realized for future generations to come; and

WHEREAS, he has long preached that education is a public good from which everyone reaps benefits, and providing adequate funding starting with early childhood education and continuing to postsecondary training is the real key to guaranteed success in life; and

WHEREAS, as he prepares for the next productive chapter of his life, Ben Nevers and his wife, Ann, celebrate forty-nine years together, three children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren; they share their happiness in the company of close friends, colleagues, and their church family at Memorial Baptist Church; and the Nevers family shall continue to have a positive effect on their community for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, Senator Ben Nevers deserves commendation for the exemplary strides he has taken as an exceptional member of the Legislature of Louisiana, and he has proven himself to those he represents to be "a true man of the people".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Honorable Ben Wayne Nevers Sr., extending honor and

recognition to him for his outstanding accomplishments, particularly during his tenure as a member of the Louisiana State Senate and the Louisiana House of Representatives, which has been marked by his uncompromising endeavors to improve the welfare of his constituents and the citizens of the state of Louisiana, and does hereby pay tribute to him for the generous and effective way in which he has dedicated his intelligence and his energy to the service of his faith, family, friends, community, state, and country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby expresses enduring gratitude to Senator Nevers for his service to the citizens of Louisiana, as evidenced by his superlative achievements as a member of this distinguished body, and hereby extends to him the best wishes of all of his colleagues for continued prosperity and success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Ben W. Nevers Sr. of Louisiana Senatorial District 12.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE