

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 165

BY SENATORS HEITMEIER, ALARIO AND MORRELL

A RESOLUTION

To commend Belinda Constant upon her election as the first woman to serve as mayor of Gretna, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Belinda Constant began her elective office public service as a city council member in Gretna and on April 6, 2013, she was elected mayor of that city, being the first woman to so serve; and

WHEREAS, this mayoral election was greatly anticipated in the community as the previous mayor, having served as mayor through seven terms decided not to run, leaving two members of the city council to face off in the mayoral race; and

WHEREAS, Belinda was first elected to the Gretna City Council in 2005, just a few short months before the greater New Orleans area was devastated by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath and she was reelected in 2010 without opposition; and

WHEREAS, Belinda is a native of New Orleans and a longtime resident of Gretna, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Belinda graduated from Archbishop Blenk High School (now combined to form the Academy of Our Lady, a Catholic high school for girls in Marrero) and attended Louisiana State University; she is married to Ronnie Constant, and they have raised three children on the Westbank; and

WHEREAS, her work history includes ownership and operation of a court reporting business and service as the administrator of both the Jefferson Parish Intensive Probation Drug Court and the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals from which she is now retired; and

WHEREAS, during her campaign for mayor, Belinda touted her experience, gleaned from having taken office mere months before Katrina, in navigating federal agencies to secure resources and reimbursements as a significant qualification for serving as Gretna's mayor; and

WHEREAS, her civic involvements have been many, including participation in the Council for a Better Louisiana Leadership Program in 2006, and work for St. Joseph Church development, Gretna Economic Development Association, Gretna Farmers Market and Artwalk, Gretna Heritage Festival, Gretna Historical Society, Friends of the German-American Cultural Center, Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful, Jefferson Historical Society, the Louisiana Municipal Association, and the Louisiana Association of Drug Court professionals; and

WHEREAS, her plans for her first term as mayor of Gretna include continuing to explore and develop economic opportunities by seeking parish, state, and federal grants, to upgrade the greatly stressed utility systems in the area, and to continue to expand social and recreational opportunities for the citizens of Gretna, with a special focus on senior citizens and youth.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Belinda Constant upon her election as the first woman to serve as mayor of Gretna, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Belinda Constant, mayor of Gretna, Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE