

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 172

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To commend Michael J. Olivier of Baton Rouge on the occasion of his retirement from the Committee of 100 for Economic Development.

WHEREAS, Michael Olivier is a native of St. Mary Parish and has dedicated more than four decades of his life to service in the field of economic development, devoting most of his career to encouraging national and international companies to invest in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Michael graduated from Centerville High School in 1968, earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette (ULL) in 1972, and completed his master's degree at ULL in 1974; and

WHEREAS, he began his career in economic development as the Executive Director of the Lafayette Economic Development Authority and then served as the head of the Harrison County Development Commission in Mississippi for eighteen years; and

WHEREAS, Michael was the recipient of the American Economic Development Council's Distinguished Service Award in 1995, 1996, and 1997; and

WHEREAS, *Businessweek* named Michael "Mississippi's Economic Developer of the Year" in 1999, and in 2002, *Southern Business and Development* magazine named him one of the "Top 10 Economic Developers of the Decade"; and

WHEREAS, Michael returned to Louisiana to serve as Secretary of the Louisiana Economic Development Department under Governor Kathleen Blanco from 2004 to 2008, helping lead the state's business recovery effort following the devastation caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Michael led the Louisiana Economic Development Department to achieve International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001 certification and International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Accredited Economic Development Organization designation, both "firsts in the nation" for a state economic development agency; and

WHEREAS, Michael was named the 2006 winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Economic Development by the International Economic Development Council; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Michael was named by *Southern Business and Development* magazine as one of the "Top 10 in the U.S. to Make a Difference in Economic Development" and his work led Louisiana to be named the magazine's "State of the Year" for the first time; and

WHEREAS, during Michael's tenure, the Louisiana Economic Development Department was awarded the 2007 Economic Development Leadership Award in Strategies and Innovation by CORENET Global for the business recovery work accomplished after hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

WHEREAS, Michael has served as past president of the Southern Economic Development Council and as a ten-year board member and officer of the American Economic Development Council; and

WHEREAS, with the Committee of 100 for Economic Development, Michael spearheaded a highly-successful and unique partnership with the Council for a Better Louisiana and the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana to create the nonpartisan RESET Louisiana initiative to inform candidates for the Legislature on issues critical to the future of Louisiana, and worked with the Tax Foundation in 2015 to develop what has become one of the key frameworks for tax reform in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, since 2019, Michael has served with distinction as the Chief Executive Officer of the Committee of 100 for Economic Development and he was named the Eugene Schreiber Award winner for 2009 by the World Trade Center of New Orleans in recognition of his many years of international economic development work; and

WHEREAS, Michael currently serves on the Louisiana Board of International Commerce and the Restore Louisiana Task Force, appointed by Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards; and

WHEREAS, Michael has been married for forty-five years to his wife, Penelope, and they have two daughters, Emily Patterson (spouse, Adam) and Mallory Olivier, and two grandchildren, Gray, age fifteen, and Hayes, age thirteen; and

WHEREAS, his jovial personality, love of travel, pursuit of "foodie" adventures, and commitment to the betterment of Louisiana are known and appreciated by many.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Michael J. Olivier on the occasion of his retirement from the Committee of 100 for Economic Development and does hereby extend sincerest wishes for continued success as he begins a new and productive phase in his life.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE