

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 173

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Honorable Jean-Paul "JP" Morrell on his exemplary service in the Louisiana Legislature and to express enduring gratitude for his outstanding contributions made on behalf of his constituents and the state of Louisiana, particularly his tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana Senate representing District No. 3 and the Louisiana House of Representative representing District No. 97.

WHEREAS, Senator Jean-Paul "JP" Morrell was born and raised in the 7th Ward of New Orleans, Louisiana, the third of four boys born to Arthur and Cynthia Morrell, an attorney and public school principal respectively; and

WHEREAS, during his formative years, his parents impressed upon him the importance of education, advocacy, and public service through the various appointed and elected positions in which they served, with Arthur Morrell representing District No. 97 in the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, JP and his wife Catherine have three children: Jude, Fiona, and Alexander; and

WHEREAS, he received his Bachelor of Political Science from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama, and his Juris Doctor from Tulane University Law School in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Senator Morrell, as an attorney, specializes in insurance, healthcare, and regulatory and compliance law as well as environmental, land use, and zoning advocacy; and

WHEREAS, he served as a member of the Orleans Parish Office of Indigent Public Defender Program for Magistrate Court, providing legal services for clients who could not

afford an attorney for misdemeanor offenses; and

WHEREAS, JP, as a public servant elected into the Louisiana House of Representatives in 2006 to fill the unexpired term of his father and during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, was heavily involved in recovery efforts, neighborhood participation, and voter advocacy in the wake of that devastating disaster; and

WHEREAS, upon reelection in 2007, JP was selected to chair the House Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs Committee, becoming one of the youngest chairmen in the history of the Louisiana House of Representatives and, while a member of the House, he also served on the Committee on Appropriations, Committee on Civil Law and Procedure, and House Committee on Education; and

WHEREAS, upon being elected to the Louisiana State Senate in 2008 in a special election for District No. 3, he was immediately named to the chairmanship of the Senate Local and Municipal Affairs Committee; after his re-election in 2011, JP served as the chairman of the Senate Judiciary B Committee; and after being reelected in 2015, he is currently serving as the chairman of the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee, which sets tax policies for the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the senator has also served on the Senate Committee on Insurance, Senate Committee on Environmental Quality, Senate Committee on Retirement, Senate Committee on Education, Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, Senate Select Committee on Oversight of the Deepwater Horizon Claims, Senate Select Committee on Disaster Recovery, Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay, and State Bond Commission; and

WHEREAS, because JP is a proven capable leader who builds bipartisan coalitions to pass complex and controversial legislation, he has been very instrumental in successfully passing key legislative issues such as: comprehensive sentencing and criminal justice reform; extensive juvenile justice reform such as changing the age for adult prosecution from seventeen to eighteen years of age, thus bringing Louisiana into conformity with the rest of the United States; increasing educational opportunities for incarcerated adults; and more expansive probation and parole eligibility; and

WHEREAS, he has helped to pass sweeping legislation regarding a plethora of women's issues, such as increased transparency of rape kit testing, comprehensive changes regarding sexual assault on college campuses, increased protection for victims of domestic violence, as well as expanding the remedies of domestic assault victims to obtain immediate divorces and sue their abusers for support; and

WHEREAS, JP is considered a champion regarding reproductive rights and has authored bills regarding equal pay for women; and

WHEREAS, he has authored extensive ethics and governmental reform legislation which was enacted; such as substantially restructuring the Orleans Parish Sewerage and Water Board for the first time in over 100 years, as well as banning companies involved in bribery schemes from continuing to contract with municipal, parish, or state entities; and

WHEREAS, he is active in many caucuses, continually sharing his valuable knowledge with colleagues, media, students, and anyone interested in building a better Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Senator Jean-Paul "JP" Morrell deserves a special measure of commendation for his service to his district and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Jean-Paul "JP" Morrell on his exemplary service in the Louisiana Legislature, particularly in the Louisiana Senate representing Senate District No. 3, express its congratulations for a job well done, and convey its best wishes for all of his future aspirations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Jean-Paul "JP" Morrell.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE