

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 184

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

A RESOLUTION

To commend Senator Gerald Long for his years of service to the citizens of the state of Louisiana while a member of the Louisiana Senate and the President Pro Tempore.

WHEREAS, it is with enduring gratitude that Senate President Pro Tempore Gerald Long is commended for his stellar contributions to his constituents in the parishes of Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, Sabine, and Winn, and to the citizens of the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Senator Long is a lifelong resident of Louisiana, having been reared in Winn Parish; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Winnfield High School in 1962, and in 1966, he graduated from Northwestern State University; and

WHEREAS, while a senior at Northwestern State University, he met a beautiful freshman, Rose Marie Landry, who would become the love of his life; Gerald and Rose married in 1966, and that was the beginning of a love affair and partnership that would last 50 years until her death in 2017; and

WHEREAS, they reared three loving and caring children, Andrea Long Phillips, Pam Long Jordan, and Richard Long; nine grandsons, and one granddaughter; Senator Long and Mrs. Rose passed down a love of God, as shown by their life and love, to their children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, since the death of his wife, he has remarried Valerie Aymond Long; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Northwestern State University with a bachelor's degree in education with a minor in English, he taught at Houma Junior High School and Leesville High School; and

WHEREAS, after teaching for a few years, he started a career in the insurance business and eventually he retired in 1999 as an insurance agent for State Farm Insurance Company; and

WHEREAS, Senator Long earned the distinction of being a lifetime member of the State Farm President's Club which is earned by fewer than two percent of insurance agents nationally; and

WHEREAS, while an insurance agent and after he retired, Senator Long mentored numerous college students, coaches, and high school and middle school students in the Natchitoches area through his involvement with Fellowship of Christian Athletes for over eighteen years; and

WHEREAS, Senator Long is a member and deacon of the First Baptist Church of Natchitoches and because of his sincere and passionate belief in God, he is willing to witness to anyone about his faith; and

WHEREAS, Senator Long is a descendant of the Long family political dynasty in the state of Louisiana, and in that tradition, he ran for office in 2007, and was elected senator for District 31 beginning in 2008; and

WHEREAS, he has served on numerous boards and commissions such as the Louisiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, the Legislative Advisory Council for the Southern Regional Education Board, the Louisiana Rural Caucus, the Northwestern State University Athletic Board of Directors, and the Ark-La-Tex Investment and Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, he served on numerous legislative committees such as Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development; Education; Finance; Insurance; Retirement; Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; Transportation, Highways and Public Works; and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget; and

WHEREAS, Senator Long was the chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources from 2012 through 2016, and as the chairman, he advocated for water resources

management by passing legislation that changed the membership of the Water Resources Commission and the Water Management Advisory Task Force, and that would continue the development of a statewide water resource management plan; and

WHEREAS, beginning with his legislative term in 2016, he was elected President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one of his main duties as President Pro Tempore is to schedule religious leaders to open each legislative day with a prayer, and he looks forward to and enjoys visiting with every religious leader; and

WHEREAS, when his term as senator for District 31 comes to an end, Senator Long will enjoy his days fishing for crappie, watching Northwestern State University sports, cheering on his grandchildren in whatever sport they are playing, and on rare occasions, shelling pecans.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Senator Gerald Long and express sincere gratitude for his service to his constituents in the parishes of Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, Sabine, and Winn, and to the citizens of the state of Louisiana during his tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana Senate and as President Pro Tempore, and hereby extends to him the best wishes of his friends and colleagues for continued prosperity and success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Senator Gerald Long, President Pro Tempore.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE