

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 117

BY SENATOR PERRY

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Paul Loren Kedingler upon the occasion of his retirement following a remarkable fifty year career in journalism.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate Paul Loren Kedingler upon the occasion of his retirement  
3 following a remarkable fifty year career in journalism.

4 WHEREAS, Paul Kedingler and his three siblings spent their early years on their  
5 family dairy farm before moving to and attending school in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; and

6 WHEREAS, in his teen years, Paul Kedingler felt that he had a calling to become a  
7 Catholic priest and after high school he went on to graduate from St. Francis Seminary in  
8 Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and

9 WHEREAS, becoming aware that perhaps his future did not lie in serving the church  
10 as a priest, Paul Kedingler enrolled in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, School  
11 of Journalism and Mass Communication; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Kedingler walked into his first graduate school class and took a seat  
13 next to a young woman, Wanda Hudgins, who would become his wife and the two have  
14 enjoyed a long and happy marriage; and

15 WHEREAS, Paul Kedingler attended graduate school part-time and worked full-time  
16 and while a graduate student he founded the Scriblierious Club, a networking group for  
17 faculty and graduate students involved in the study of journalism; and

18 WHEREAS, during graduate school Mr. Kedingler became interested in the area of

1 community journalism, a decision that led to his first job after graduation as editor at the  
2 *Lake Geneva Regional News* in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and later to become the editor and  
3 advertising manager at the *New Holstein Reporter* in New Holstein, Wisconsin; and

4 WHEREAS, after more than four years in New Holstein, Paul Kedingers  
5 father-in-law, Harold Hudgins, encouraged Paul and Wanda to move home to Oakdale,  
6 Louisiana, and Paul would work at Hudgins' *Oakdale Beacon*; and

7 WHEREAS, the Kedingers relocated to Oakdale, Louisiana, and when Harold  
8 Hudgins retired, Paul Kedingers became editor and publisher of the *Beacon*; and

9 WHEREAS, for the next eight years, Mr. Kedingers converted the paper from a  
10 free-circulation publication, funded only through advertising, to a newspaper delivered to  
11 paying subscribers through the postal service; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1984, Paul Kedingers sold the newspaper and operated Images, Etc.,  
13 an advertising and public relations firm for one year before becoming the editor of the *Ville*  
14 *Platte Gazette*, a position he held for the next eleven years; and

15 WHEREAS, eventually, Mr. Kedingers left the *Gazette* to work for Louisiana State  
16 Newspapers, a chain of smaller newspapers around the state, where he worked on special  
17 projects; and

18 WHEREAS, in his work for Louisiana State Newspapers, Mr. Kedingers traveled the  
19 state hiring and training editors until the acquisitions of the company began to slow as the  
20 newspaper business throughout the country stagnated; and

21 WHEREAS, Paul Kedingers' employer at Louisiana Newspapers requested that he  
22 move to Rayne to serve as the managing editor of the *Rayne Acadian-Tribune*, a paper  
23 owned by the company; and

24 WHEREAS, for twenty years, Mr. Kedingers held the position of managing editor  
25 until his retirement in April, 2016; and

26 WHEREAS, throughout his fifty year career in journalism, Paul Kedingers trained and  
27 mentored countless young women and men who went on to become well-respected  
28 journalists and positive contributors to their communities; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Kedingers eventually tried his hand at religious journalism, what he  
30 first thought was his journalistic destiny, and for the last five years and at the request of the

