SLS 16RS-2464 **ORIGINAL**

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 117

BY SENATOR PERRY

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

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To commend and congratulate Paul Loren Kedinger upon the occasion of his retirement
3	following a remarkable fifty year career in journalism.
4	WHEREAS, Paul Kedinger 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 Kedinger 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 Kedinger enrolled in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, School
11	of Journalism and Mass Communication; and
12	WHEREAS, Mr. Kedinger 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 Kedinger attended graduate school part-time and worked full-time
16	and while a graduate student he founded the Scriblirious Club, a networking group for
17	faculty and graduate students involved in the study of journalism; and
18	WHEREAS, during graduate school Mr. Kedinger 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 Kedinger's
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 Kedinger became editor and publisher of the Beacon; and
9	WHEREAS, for the next eight years, Mr. Kedinger 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 Kedinger 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. Kedinger 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. Kedinger 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 Kedinger's 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. Kedinger held the position of managing editor
25	until his retirement in April, 2016; and
26	WHEREAS, throughout his fifty year career in journalism, Paul Kedinger 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. Kedinger 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

SLS 16RS-2464 ORIGINAL
SR NO. 117

bishop, he has served on the Lafayette diocesan board of communication; and

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

SR 117 Original

WHEREAS, Paul Kedinger plans to continue writing on a freelance basis on his computer at his father-in-law's rolltop desk, maintaining the link between the two generations of the Hudgins-Kedinger family and their community; and

WHEREAS, over the fifty years of a career marked by declines in support for and readership of newspapers, Paul Kedinger has strengthened the bond between smaller communities and their newspapers, living the principles of journalism learned at the University of Wisconsin and reinforced by all the editors and publishers for whom he was fortunate to work; and

WHEREAS, retirement will bring more time to spend with his wife, for whom he says he became a "Cajun convert", his sons and their families, including his twelve grandchildren.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Paul Kedinger upon the occasion of his retirement following a remarkable fifty year career in journalism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Paul Kedinger.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

DIGEST 2016 Regular Session

Perry

Commends Paul Kedinger upon the occasion of his retirement following a remarkable 50 year career in journalism.