

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 157

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

A RESOLUTION

To commend Willie Landry Mount on being conferred an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by McNeese State University.

WHEREAS, the Doctorate of Humane Letters is the highest honor that the university can bestow upon an individual; and

WHEREAS, the honorary degree was conferred upon Willie Landry Mount at the one hundred forty-sixth commencement ceremony of McNeese State University on May 14, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mount is a successful business owner, outstanding civic leader, a distinguished former mayor, former state senator, and an ardent supporter of McNeese State University; and

WHEREAS, she received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from McNeese State University in 1974, serves on the McNeese Foundation Board of Directors, is a recipient of the McNeese Distinguished Alumni Award, and has been inducted into the McNeese College of Business Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mount was the first female mayor of the city of Lake Charles and served in that capacity for six and one-half years before becoming the first female elected to represent District 27 in the Louisiana Senate; and

WHEREAS, she served three terms in the Senate, from 2000-2012, and in her third term she chaired the Health and Welfare Committee, was a member of the Transportation, Highways, and Public Works and Judiciary C committees, Legislative Audit Advisory Council, and served on the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, Select Committee on Women and Children, Select Committee on Coastal Restoration and Flood Control, Child

Poverty Prevention Council, Health Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures, Southern Growth Policies Board, and Louisiana Health Works Commission, and was an interim member of the Senate Committee on Finance; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mount previously served as the chair of the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee, as vice-chair of the Education Committee, and was a member of a number of committees, including Senate Select Committee on Consumer Affairs, Judiciary B, State Technology Advisory, Millennium Port, Dyslexia Study Committee, Reading Leadership Team, Joint Legislative Juvenile Justice, School Finance Review, Commission on French, and the Commission on Best Practices in School Discipline; and

WHEREAS, she has been very active in a variety of civic and community betterment projects, including past president of the Louisiana Conference of Mayors and as a member on the executive boards of the Louisiana Municipal Association and the Council for a Better Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, she also serves on the Christus St. Patrick Board of Councilors, and previously served on the United Way Community Foundation, Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana Board, United Methodist Foundation, and Alzheimer's Association State Board; and

WHEREAS, because of Ms. Mount's leadership, she has been awarded the Distinguished Citizen of the Year by the Boy Scouts, Public Official of the Year by the Msgr. Cramers Knights of Columbus, National Association of Social Workers, and Louisiana Association of Museums, Woman of the Year by the Quota Club, and Citizen of the Year by the Kiwanis Club of Lake Charles, and U.S. Marine Corps League; and

WHEREAS, she also received the Community Service Award from the North Lake Charles Kiwanis Club, the Doretha Combre Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Patron of Architecture Award from the Louisiana Architectural Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International honored her with its Golden Apple Award and the Junior League of Lake Charles honored her as the 2004 Sustainer of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mount was named a Special Friend of the Louisiana Municipal Association in 2002, 2003, and 2004 and was recognized by the New Orleans Regional Chamber and Metro Vision for her efforts during the 2003 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, she was also named Champion for Children by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana, in addition to receiving the Ron Schroeder Award from the MicroEnterprise Development Alliance of Louisiana and the Wilton J. Bellard Jr. Champion Award from the Southwest Louisiana Center for Health Services; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mount has been recognized as Legislator of the Year by the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association, the Louisiana Association of Principals, the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, and the Childcare Association of Louisiana, and was selected as a recipient of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Legislative Award in 2007, the Leadership in the Community Award by Women of Excellence, the Christus Health Eagle Award in 2008, and the LegisGator Champion Award in 2008 and 2009; and

WHEREAS, she received the Chamber Southwest Louisiana Chairman's Award in 2009, the Senator Diana Bajoie Award, the LegisGator Business Champion Award in 2010 and 2011, and was the Nurse Family Partnership Legislative Champion for 2010; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mount has received the 2010 Louisiana Family Forum Family Advocate Award and was honored by the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, she received the LegisGator Legacy of Service Award and the Public Service Award from the Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau, and in recent years she was given the Junior League of Lake Charles Della Krause Theilen Voluntarism Award, named a Pinnacle Light of Hope Honoree, and had her lifelong commitment to philanthropy honored during National Philanthropy Day; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mount has served as an outstanding leader in civic and professional organizations through her service on a multitude of boards and organizations at the local and state levels, including the Calcasieu Community Clinic, Library Board of Control for the Calcasieu Parish Public Library, Lakeside Bank, National Hurricane Museum and Science Center, Lake Area Medical Center, Friends of Louisiana Public Broadcasting, Louisiana Conference Board of Laity, Louisiana Nurse Family Partnership, the Cenikor Foundation, LEH, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, Lake Charles Symphony, Free

to Breathe, Lake Charles Country Club, First United Methodist Church, GO Group-Special Initiatives Task Force, the Southwest Louisiana Charter Academy Foundation Inc., and the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mount merits the highest measure of commendation and most sincere congratulations on her outstanding accomplishments and contributions to her community and to the state of Louisiana and its citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Willie Landry Mount on being conferred the honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by McNeese State University and for her tireless dedication and exemplary public service, and does hereby record for posterity the pride and honor that she brings to her family, friends, community, the state of Louisiana, and the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Willie Landry Mount.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE