

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 202

BY REPRESENTATIVES JIM MORRIS, BARRAS, CROMER, ABRAHAM, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, AMEDEE, ANDERS, ARMES, BACALA, BAGLEY, BAGNERIS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BOUIE, BROADWATER, CHAD BROWN, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COUSSAN, COX, DANAHAY, DAVIS, DEVILLIER, DWIGHT, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FALCONER, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GLOVER, GUINN, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, LANCE HARRIS, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HORTON, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, ROBERT JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LOPINTO, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MONTOUCET, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, NORTON, PEARSON, PIERRE, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, WHITE, WILLMOTT, AND ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To commend and express appreciation to Mary F. Quaid upon her retirement as executive director of House Legislative Services of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, as she retires as the longtime and longest serving director of House Legislative Services of the Louisiana House of Representatives, it is appropriate to commend Mary F. Quaid for nearly three decades of excellence in public service; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid, who attended public school in Jefferson Parish, earned a bachelor of arts in psychology in May of 1982 from Louisiana State University, a juris doctor degree in 1985 from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU, and a master of business administration degree from LSU in 2009; and

WHEREAS, it was in the spring of 1988 when Ms. Quaid began her long and very productive career with the Louisiana House of Representatives as a contract employee, and she joined the full-time staff in the fall of that year; and

WHEREAS, since December of 1998, Ms. Quaid has served with great distinction and effectiveness as executive director of House Legislative Services (HLS), and she has played a formative role in making HLS what it is today, leading the staff as it strives towards

excellence in providing drafting, research, and support services to the full membership of the House, staffing its sixteen standing committees, and enhancing its institutional strength and identity; and

WHEREAS, prior to assuming the vital position of executive director of HLS, Ms. Quaid served as director of the Legal Division, where she supervised the staff of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure, and the House Committee on Retirement from January of 1998 until December of 1998; and

WHEREAS, in her earlier years with HLS, Ms. Quaid served as a staff attorney for the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice from March of 1988 until November of 1991 and for the House Committee on Civil Law from November of 1991 until December of 1997, with primary responsibility for drafting and analyzing legislation, staffing committee meetings, and interim studies; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid has staffed a total of fifty-six legislative sessions, regular and extraordinary, under eight Speakers, Dimos, Alario, Downer, DeWitt, Salter, Tucker, Kleckley, and Barras, and has provided exemplary legislative services to four hundred House members and a handful of senators; and

WHEREAS, an expert drafter, Ms. Quaid has crafted thousands of pieces of legislation, including major legislation such as the Louisiana Children's Code; child custody, visitation, and support revisions; tort reform; alternative dispute resolution; "no pay, no play" automobile liability insurance law; feticide law; juvenile justice reform laws; the "dirty lyrics" bill; and many more; she retains the record of having drafted the most bills in any given session with more than three hundred bills to her credit in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid has been responsible for numerous institutional changes and enhancements during her tenure as a truly superb HLS director; she incorporated "value-added" services to HLS's core responsibilities in supporting the one hundred five members of the House; worked to upgrade and enhance bill drafting and tracking systems, websites, and notification systems; and innovated the delivery of information to House members by providing electronic presentations on "Hot Topics" in advance of each session, a "Session Wrap" immediately after each session, and constitutional amendment summaries designed to be used by legislators in giving speeches and making presentations; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid also produced documents and processes to help members be more efficient and better organized, including session calendars identifying various "safe days" for the timely submission of legislative requests, and "Monday Reports"; provided many opportunities for staff professional development, including training programs, round-table discussions, guest lecturers, and new employee training; participated in the legal representation of members and the legislative institution by writing legal briefs, defending members, invoking legislative speech privilege, seeking amicus status in important legal cases, and suggesting legislation to ensure protection of legislative interests and independence; assisted the legislature and House leadership in preparing for term limits; and played an important role in coordinating comprehensive emergency response and support during and after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Gustav; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid has been committed to HLS's mission to provide the House, its members, and its committees with the highest quality legislative support services in a professional, nonpartisan manner in order to carry out legislative policy and assist the legislature in functioning as a coequal branch of government; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid holds the firm belief that a nonpartisan staff is essential to accomplishing the mission of HLS, and she is quick to attribute the success of HLS to its eighty professional staff members; and

WHEREAS, in service of the community, Ms. Quaid spearheaded several charitable activities conducted by House staff, including holiday meals and gifts for needy families in the Baton Rouge area, Valentine's Day cards for children in the hospital, Habitat for Humanity builds, and food and blood drives; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid's numerous professional affiliations include the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) as an executive committee staff member, staff vice chair of the Legislative Effectiveness Committee, participant in the Legislative Staff Management Institute and Senior Management Leadership Seminar, and member, presenter, and contributor of and presenter of numerous programs for NCSL and its Research and Committee Staff and Legal Services Staff Sections and the NCSL *State Legislatures* magazine; the Council of State Governments as an appointed member of the Suggested State Legislation Committee and member of Legislative Service Agency Directors Group; the

Uniform Law Commission; the Louisiana Children's Code Project; and staff of the Juvenile Justice Reform Commission; and

WHEREAS, a gifted public speaker and presenter, Ms. Quaid has presented at multiple programs of New Member Orientation for new House members; presented "Watching a Bill Become Law in your Bathrobe" for the Clerks of Court Association, Louisiana Municipal Association, and Louisiana Travel and Tourism Summit; delivered presentations at legislative assistant training; and led House staff participation in international training programs, including the International Legislative Drafting Institute: Public Law Center for more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid has also shared her vast knowledge and expertise in presentations on the Effects of Term Limits for the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus and the Livingston Republican Women; the New Limited Session for the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus; and the Legislative Process for the Louisiana State University Academy of Politics and the Cinderella Project; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid has been a distinguished ambassador for the Louisiana Legislature as a presenter at national conferences throughout the United States, including her presentations on Issues in Partisan and Nonpartisan Legislative Staffing Patterns; Exemplary Staff Services; the "Welcome Wagon": How Louisiana Prepares its New Members for Legislative Service; Permanent Staff in a Term Limited Legislature; and Legislators and Staff: Building Trust in a Polarized World; and

WHEREAS, it was at one of these national conferences where, when asked how she would describe "high maintenance legislators", Ms. Quaid replied, "Job security"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid has been the deserving recipient of several special awards and honors, including the National Conference of State Legislature's highly prestigious Staff Achievement Award in 2015 and being named to the Moot Court Board, the national and state dean's lists, the Mortar Board leadership honor organization, and Outstanding Young Women of America; and

WHEREAS, beyond the halls of the state capitol, Ms. Quaid has made a true difference in the lives of her fellow citizens through her active participation with Evergreen Life Services, which serves more than one thousand individuals with developmental disabilities throughout seven states, and her service as a member of the board of this

wonderful organization, and as a disaster relief provider for the American Red Cross; she has also served and held offices on the boards of various homeowner associations; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid holds a special place in the chronicles of the history of Louisiana, for she is one of the state's most outstanding public servants; her contributions to the legislature and the House of Representatives cannot be overstated, and she is recognized by every member of the legislature and its staff for the singular place their esteemed colleague and beloved friend occupies in chronicles of the history of this state; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to take proper notice of the achievements and contributions of Mary Quaid, an extraordinary public servant, and of the positive impact she has had on the growth and development of the House staff and the legislature as an institution during her highly skilled and productive tenure and to express the pride of the people of the state in this most distinguished Louisianian.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Mary F. Quaid for more than twenty-eight years of dedicated and incredibly effective service as she retires as the longest serving executive director of the House Legislative Services of the Louisiana House of Representatives; does hereby express heartfelt and enduring appreciation for the pride and honor she brings to the House, to the legislature, and to the state of Louisiana; and does hereby extend best wishes to Ms. Quaid for continuing success and happiness as she begins the next chapter of her life and embarks on new endeavors and adventures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mary F. Quaid.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES