

2017 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Patrick Fontenot for his induction into the St. Landry Parish Democratic Party Hall of Fame.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate Patrick Fontenot upon his induction into the St. Landry
3 Parish Democratic Party Hall of Fame.

4 WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot was born to Dudley and Melba Fontenot on March 17,
5 1946, in Opelousas, Louisiana, where he has lived for most of his life; and

6 WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot graduated from Holy Ghost School in Opelousas in
7 1963, studied at Southern University in 1963 and 1964, and furthered his education in
8 business administration at Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1968 and 1969;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Fontenot served in the United States Air Force from 1964 through
11 1968, and was honorably discharged with a rank of sergeant; and

12 WHEREAS, while living in New Orleans from 1968 through 1981, Mr. Fontenot
13 married his first wife with whom he has three children, Chris, Michelle, and Rachael, and
14 in 1977 he married wife Patricia, with whom he has two children, Marcelle and Christine;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot's life in the world of business and commerce in both
17 Opelousas and New Orleans began in 1966; and

18 WHEREAS, during the time period from 1969 until 1981, Mr. Fontenot was a

1 cashier for Timesaver, Incorporated and held several positions with Delta Airlines in New
2 Orleans; serving in the areas of ramp, fuel, passenger, and control agent; and

3 WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot returned to Opelousas with his family and began his
4 career with Williams Progressive Life and Accident Insurance Company as debit agent, and
5 in a mere three years, was given additional responsibilities at the company; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1984, Mr. Fontenot was named district manager for Williams
7 Progressive, followed by another promotion to the position of executive vice president of
8 the company in 1987; and

9 WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot's dedication to Williams Progressive and his
10 extraordinary abilities propelled him to the positions of chief executive officer and president
11 of the company in 1999, a mere eighteen years after beginning his employment; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Fontenot presently serves as chief executive officer and sits on the
13 board of directors of Williams Progressive Life and Accident Insurance Company; and

14 WHEREAS, during his active business career in Opelousas, Patrick Fontenot has
15 served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Opelousas/St. Landry Chamber
16 of Commerce, First Federal Savings and Loan of Opelousas, Teche Federal Savings Bank,
17 and has served as chairman of the board of United Bank and Trust Company of New
18 Orleans; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Fontenot has been appointed to several prestigious positions,
20 including the Southern University Board of Supervisors from 1990 through 1997, serving
21 as board chair in 1994 and 1995 and the Louisiana Insurers conference board for ten years,
22 serving two years as chairman; and

23 WHEREAS, during Patrick Fontenot's lengthy career in public service he has been
24 appointed to numerous positions of consequence, many as a citizen working on government
25 issues and including the following: the Louisiana Insurance Rating Commission; the
26 Opelousas Rural Economic and Community Development Loan committee; the Acadiana
27 Railroad Development District; the Solid Waste Recycling committee for St. Landry and
28 Evangeline Parishes; the Opelousas Citizen Advisory committee; the Opelousas Industrial
29 Inducement committee; and the Economic Development Task Force of the Louisiana chapter
30 of the National Conference of Black Mayors; and

1 WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot was a leader in many of these endeavors, including
2 having served as the president of Zydeco Housing, a nonprofit organization that provides
3 decent, safe, and affordable homes for very low to moderate income families; as an interim
4 member of the St. Landry Parish School Board; and as chairman of the Opelousas Parks and
5 Recreation Commission baseball committee; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Fontenot maintained membership in Phi Beta Sigma, Rotary
7 International, and Frontiers International; and

8 WHEREAS, with a lifetime of service to family, work, and community, Patrick
9 Fontenot has served tirelessly to improve his city and the entire Acadiana area and through
10 that lifetime of service, has earned the honor bestowed by the democratic party of St. Landry
11 Parish; and

12 WHEREAS, the St. Landry Democratic Parish Executive Committee annually names
13 persons of high ethical and moral character who have promoted the principles of
14 constitutional equality, personal liberty, economic opportunity, and government and fiscal
15 responsibility and whose impact has positively influenced the entire parish and state; and

16 WHEREAS, the Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, who is then considered to
17 be a member of the St. Landry Democratic Party Hall of Fame, is also a person who
18 recognizes and respects the diversity of all Americans while promoting the unity of all,
19 leading his political party and displaying strong leadership throughout his career; and

20 WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot has demonstrated a devotion to all of these principles
21 of the St. Landry Democratic Party with a lifetime of efforts in the legal arena, championing
22 these principles that are so essential to the ideals of American democracy.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
24 does hereby commend Patrick Fontenot upon his induction into the St. Landry Parish
25 Democratic Party Hall of Fame.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
27 Patrick Fontenot of Opelousas, Louisiana.

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

SR 24 Original	DIGEST 2017 Regular Session	Boudreaux
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