

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY SENATOR MILLS

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Thomas H. Lillie on his many accomplishments.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Thomas H. Lillie on his many accomplishments on the occasion of his  
3 retirement from the United States Department of the Interior.

4 WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie was born and raised in the South Louisiana  
5 community of Breaux Bridge, the Crawfish Capital of the World, as the seventh child of  
6 Charles and Antonia Lillie; and

7 WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie's childhood was full of life lessons working at the feet  
8 of his father, an appliance repairman in a small town where loyalty, honor, dignity, and  
9 commitment to the least of your brothers and sisters mattered; and

10 WHEREAS, these life lessons helped him in his academic and extracurricular  
11 pursuits at Teurlings Catholic High School, the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now  
12 the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science in  
13 wildlife management in 1976 at Colorado State University where he was awarded a Master  
14 of Science in entomology in 1978, and the University of Florida where he was awarded a  
15 Doctor of Philosophy in medical entomology in 1985; and

16 WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie joined the United States Air Force in 1977 and served  
17 for twenty-six years, retiring in 2003 with the rank of colonel with major accomplishments  
18 including securing easements to 26,000 acres of California coastal property to ensure space

1 launch safety, developing NEPA compliance procedures for classified space programs,  
2 spearheading congressional approval of over five million acres of public land for military  
3 combat training, documenting pesticide contamination in over 5,000 homes, demonstrating  
4 99% effectiveness of new mosquito repellents during field tests in Alaska, and leading the  
5 Air Force's \$34 million conservation program; and

6 WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal in  
7 2003, Range and Airspace Action Officer of the Year in 1998 for exceptional contribution  
8 to the mission, the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters in 1998  
9 and 1991, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters in 1982 and 1987,  
10 the University of Florida Dean's List Award for Leadership in 1985 for University and  
11 Community Service, first place in the Florida Entomological Society Student Paper Contest  
12 in 1984 for best oral presentation, the Company Grade Officer of the Year in 1979 for  
13 outstanding performance and community service, and the ROTC Cadet of the Semester at  
14 Colorado State University in 1977 for academic and military excellence; and

15 WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie continued his service to America as a professional  
16 staff member for the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the United States Senate  
17 from June 2003 to May 2009; and

18 WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie answered the call once again to serve his country as  
19 the Chief of Staff for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement within the  
20 Department of Interior from September 2010 to his retirement in March of 2018; and

21 WHEREAS, Thomas H Lillie has a reputation of being a great sibling, friend,  
22 neighbor, coworker, and the most reliable fix-it man in the neighborhood; and

23 WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie has been blessed with two amazing and wonderful  
24 daughters and two granddaughters that are the apples of his eye; and

25 WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie is married to his soulmate and best friend, Julie  
26 Falkner, and together they have enjoyed pursuing happiness and a certain joie de vivre (joy  
27 of life) that others remark as out of the ordinary and special; and

28 WHEREAS, although Thomas H. Lillie has lived in six states throughout his military  
29 and professional career, he has remained connected to the values of his big family and small  
30 town, and the unique Cajun culture through his love of Cajun cooking and storytelling; and

1           WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities  
2           and nation, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the  
3           dedication of people like Thomas H. Lillie who use their considerable talents and resources  
4           to serve others.

5           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
6           does hereby commend Thomas H. Lillie upon the occasion of his retirement from the United  
7           States Department of Interior, record and recognize his numerous contributions to this state  
8           and nation, extend to him much appreciation for his long, dedicated, and generous service,  
9           and express sincere wishes for health and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

10          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
11          Thomas H. Lillie.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

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	DIGEST	
SR 26 Original	2018 Regular Session	Mills

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