

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 79

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

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate former State Senator Donald "Don" R. Cravins Jr. on his many accomplishments and on being inducted into the Southern University Law Center Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2018, Donald R. Cravins Jr. will be inducted into the Southern University Law Center Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, the Southern University Law Center Hall of Fame honors individuals from over four thousand alumni for their hard work, career distinctions, and contributions to their communities, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, Donald R. Cravins Jr. serves as the National Urban League's senior vice president for policy and executive director of the Washington Bureau and leads the development of the National Urban League's policy, research, and advocacy agenda, while expanding the organization's impact and influence inside the Capital Beltway; and

WHEREAS, since 1998, he has been a practicing attorney and a member of the Louisiana Bar Association; in 2004, he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives and, at that time, he and his father, State Senator Don Cravins Sr., made Louisiana history by becoming the first and only father and son to serve in the Louisiana Legislature at the same time; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Cravins was elected to the Louisiana Senate for the seat vacated by his father, and, during his Senate tenure, he was heavily involved in

post-Hurricane Katrina issues as the chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee and was an active member of the Juvenile Justice Commission of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2009, Don Cravins Jr. left the Louisiana Legislature to serve as staff director and chief counsel for the United States Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship where he oversaw the legislative activities of the committee; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2013, he began serving as chief of staff for U.S. Senator Mary L. Landrieu of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his duties at the National Urban League, Don Cravins Jr. is an adjunct professor at George Washington University where he teaches Prosecution and Litigation in Intellectual Property and Constitutional Law; and

WHEREAS, he also serves as a captain in the District of Columbia Army National Guard Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps with the 352nd Legal Operations Detachment; and

WHEREAS, he is a native of Southwest Louisiana and a graduate of Teurlings Catholic High and Louisiana State University where he received a bachelor's degree in political science; he attended Southern University Law Center where he graduated with honors; and he was presented the Southern University Law Center Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015 and named a 2015 LSU Legend by the LSU Black Alumni Chapter; and

WHEREAS, Don Cravins Jr. attended the Louisiana Youth Seminar (LYS) in 1988 and 1989 and served as a counselor from 1990-1994; he was an assistant program director in 1995 and served as program director in 1996 and 1997; Don has also been named to the LYS Hall of Fame and serves as a member of the LYS Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, he is married to Attorney Yvette Puckett Cravins, and they have three children, Dominique Claire, Trey, and Chloe Denise; Yvette serves as the chief of staff for Congressman William Lacy Clay Jr. of Missouri; and Cravins and his family reside in Opelousas, Louisiana, and in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend in great measure on talented, intelligent, dedicated, hardworking men like Donald R. Cravins Jr.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate former state senator Donald R. Cravins Jr. on his many accomplishments and on being inducted to the Southern University Law Center Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Donald R. Cravins Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE