

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 126

BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHEXNAYDER AND GAROFALO AND SENATORS BARROW, BOUIE, CATHEY, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENSGENS, JACKSON, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, SMITH, STINE, TARVER, AND WARD

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Hillary R. "Butch" Browning, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement, for his service in fire protection and law enforcement.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize Hillary R. "Butch" Browning, Jr., and commend him for dedicating thirty-four years of distinguished fire protection and law enforcement service to the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Hillary R. "Butch" Browning, Jr., is a native of Baton Rouge and a 1986 graduate of Redemptorist High School; in his youth, he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, and he also became the state's youngest certified medical first responder and American Heart Association CPR instructor at the age of fourteen; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from high school, Mr. Browning joined the ranks of the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office where he served for one year; he then joined the District Six Fire Department in Baton Rouge to serve as the assistant fire chief; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Browning obtained an associate's degree in fire science from Louisiana State University in 1997; a year later, he was promoted to the position of fire chief of the District Six Fire Department; after serving as fire chief of the District Six Fire Department for three years, he was named fire chief of the city of Gonzales Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Browning was appointed to serve as Louisiana State Fire Marshal by Governor Bobby Jindal in March 2008; at forty years old, he became the youngest appointee to the position in state history; as the Louisiana State Fire Marshal, he led an

agency that oversaw statewide building plan reviews, fire code inspections, life safety and property protection contractors, mechanical safety, fire/arson investigation, public fire safety education, and the nationally-recognized urban search and rescue disaster response program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Browning was reappointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to continue serving as Louisiana State Fire Marshal in January 2016; throughout his two terms in this position, he achieved dozens of certifications and credentials at the national level in fire safety, first response, disaster response, leadership, and building and life safety; and

WHEREAS, throughout his accomplished career, Mr. Browning has maintained various professional and community service affiliations with associations ranging from his local Rotary Club to statewide and international associations; he has often served in leadership roles with these associations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Browning has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career; among these was the 2018 National Association of State Fire Marshal's President's Award, which he received after overseeing the successful development and implementation of a modernized information management system for his agency; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Browning left the office of state fire marshal on May 15, 2022, after having served the longest tenure of any state fire marshal in Louisiana history; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Browning's leadership, the office of state fire marshal evolved into a pivotal agency for the business community to rely on; the agency's dependability gives business owners the security of knowing that building and construction safety is held to the highest standards; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Browning bolstered the agency's efficiency by cross-training personnel to increase productivity and elevate efforts to abate arson across Louisiana; this professional-level training has gained positive recognition and commendations from agencies across the country; additionally, his implementation of the robust and responsive urban search and rescue program has placed the office of state fire marshal at the forefront of disaster response not only in the state, but around the nation; and

WHEREAS, outside of his professional life, Mr. Browning is married to Joy Browning, and he is the proud father of Meagan, Zachary, Harlen, and Hudson; and

WHEREAS, Hillary R. "Butch" Browning has dedicated himself to the service of Louisiana and its people with unrelenting diligence and passion; he has proven his deep commitment to ensuring the safety of all people, and he is most deserving of the highest recognition for his remarkable term of professional service as the Louisiana State Fire Marshal; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depends in great measure upon first responders and public servants like Butch Browning who use their talents and resources to lead by example with ethics and integrity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Hillary R. "Butch" Browning, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement, for his service in fire protection and law enforcement and does hereby extend sincerest wishes for his continued prosperity as he begins his well-earned life in retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Hillary R. "Butch" Browning, Jr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE