

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY SENATORS PEACOCK, ABRAHAM, BERNARD, CATHEY, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MILLIGAN, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, WHITE AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Cynthia "Cindy" Young Rougeou for her career of public service and to congratulate her upon her retirement.

WHEREAS, it was with a sense of loss and disbelief that the Legislature of Louisiana learned of Cynthia "Cindy" Young Rougeou's decision to retire from her position as executive director of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System at the end of this fiscal year after three decades of distinguished service to the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Cindy has served in all three branches of Louisiana state government; before becoming assistant director and later deputy director at LASERS, she was an assistant attorney general, an attorney for the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, the deputy director and chief legal counsel for Louisiana Public Broadcasting, and undersecretary for management and finance for the Louisiana Department of State; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Cindy was tapped by the LASERS board of directors to captain what is today a thirteen-billion-dollar retirement system, disbursing annual benefits of over a billion dollars earned by nearly one hundred thousand current and former public servants in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Cindy has selflessly shared her knowledge and experience with others through participation in many associations and boards; she is a past president of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA) and of the Louisiana Association of Public Employees' Retirement Systems (LAPERS) and currently chairs the La Capitol Federal Credit Union Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Cindy received the Civil Service League's Monte M. Lemann

Award, recognizing her commitment to the advancement of the principles of the merit system of public employment throughout Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Cindy was named one of the 2019 Distinguished Alumni of McNeese State University, where she established a history scholarship through the McNeese Foundation; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as executive director, Cindy oversaw the development and launch of online access for members, providing information about their accounts and membership histories and offering a benefit calculator to assist in planning for retirement; and

WHEREAS, under Cindy's leadership, LASERS has implemented significant reforms to the retirement system; legislative enactments since 2010 are expected to produce over three billion dollars in cost savings and have directed an additional half-billion dollars of investment gains to reduce the unfunded accrued liability; and

WHEREAS, espousing the belief that ensuring a sustainable, financially sound retirement system serves both LASERS members and the public as a whole, Cindy leads by example, striving to embody LASERS' stated mission of providing a sound retirement plan for LASERS members through prudent management and exceptional service; and

WHEREAS, Cindy's tenacity in championing the issues that affect LASERS members, retirees, and their loved ones is well known; she is the quintessential fiduciary, acting in the sole interest of LASERS members and beneficiaries for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits and administering the system; and

WHEREAS, having faithfully safeguarded the post-employment security of so many of her fellow Louisianians, Cindy will now be able to enjoy her own well-deserved retirement drinking Diet Dr. Pepper, watching football, working in her yard, savoring Louisiana seafood, and spending time in the company of her family and friends.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby congratulate Cindy Rougeou upon her retirement from LASERS, does commend her for a long and distinguished career in service to others, does recognize and record for posterity her many laudable achievements, and offers heartfelt wishes for success in all her future endeavors and health and happiness in the years to come.

SCR NO. 13

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
Cindy Rougeou.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES