

2023 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 89

BY SENATOR CORTEZ

COMMENDATIONS. Commends and congratulates Will Sentell on the occasion of his retirement from a distinguished career in journalism.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate Will Sentell on the occasion of his retirement from a
3 distinguished career in journalism.

4 WHEREAS, Will Sentell was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, the second of three
5 children born to Bill and Nancy Sentell; and

6 WHEREAS, Will Sentell was raised in Shreveport, Louisiana, and proudly attended
7 C.E. Byrd High School; and

8 WHEREAS, upon high school graduation, he attended Louisiana State University
9 (LSU) in Baton Rouge where he studied journalism and worked at *The Daily Reveille*
10 newspaper, where his colleagues included John LaPlante and Randy McClain, both of whom
11 later became his coworkers at *The Advocate* and Will's good friends; and

12 WHEREAS, Will has had a distinguished career in journalism, spending forty-nine
13 years as a statehouse reporter across four states, tracking legislative sessions, political
14 campaigns, and the workings of state government; and

15 WHEREAS, Will covered eleven governors across his career including Mike Foster,
16 Kathleen Blanco, Bobby Jindal, and John Bel Edwards in Louisiana; Bill Waller and Cliff
17 Finch in Missouri; Davie Boren and George Nigh in Oklahoma; and Christopher Bond, John
18 Ashcroft, and Mel Carnahan in Mississippi; and

1 WHEREAS, Will Sentell's first job in journalism was at the *Jackson Daily News* in
2 Jackson, Mississippi, in 1975 and, a year later, he moved to Oklahoma to work for the
3 *Oklahoma Journal* and then the *Tulsa Tribune*; and

4 WHEREAS, while in Oklahoma on election day in 1978, as he covered the United
5 States Senate race, Will met Donna, the love of his life, and they were married in May 1979;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Will and his wife Donna moved to Jefferson City, Missouri, in 1981,
8 where he worked with distinction at the *Kansas City Star* for nineteen years; and

9 WHEREAS, Will's longest tenure as a reporter came at *The Advocate* newspaper in
10 Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

11 WHEREAS, to get the job in 2000, Will submitted an email describing his
12 connection to Louisiana and his interest in a Capitol Bureau position; and

13 WHEREAS, the response to his email came from his former *Reveille* colleague, John
14 LaPlante, who asked if "This is the same Will Sentell who went to LSU?"; and

15 WHEREAS, Will was hired in April 2000 and was able to work again with his
16 *Reveille* coworkers, John LaPlante and Randy McClain; and

17 WHEREAS, Will spent twenty-three years at *The Advocate*, covering public
18 education and transportation issues; he became such an expert of these subjects that other
19 reporters, advocates, and political watchers routinely sought information from him, and he
20 served as a mentor to many who passed through the offices of Press Row at the Louisiana
21 State Capitol; and

22 WHEREAS, Will was always generous with his time, checked in on his colleagues,
23 offered guidance to new journalists, and worked the long hours of a statehouse reporter with
24 kindness and grace; and

25 WHEREAS, Will loved to discuss the latest news and scores for LSU football and
26 often could be found during downtime in his office or on the floor in the house or senate
27 chambers checking out football message boards for the latest gossip about the team and its
28 coaches; and

29 WHEREAS, once his adored granddaughter was born, Will loved to trade stories
30 with lawmakers and colleagues about their children and grandchildren; and

