

2023 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY SENATOR CORTEZ

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Senator R. Barrow Peacock for his twelve years of distinguished public service to the residents of Senate District 37.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Honorable R. Barrow Peacock for his twelve years of distinguished public
3 service to the people of Louisiana and the residents of Senate District 37.

4 WHEREAS, Russell Barrow Peacock is the only son of John William "Bill" and
5 Sidney Harmon Barrow Peacock, born March 19, 1970, and he and his sister, Martha, were
6 raised in Shreveport as members of First Methodist Church; and

7 WHEREAS, after graduating from Loyola College Prep in 1988, Senator Peacock
8 earned a bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Southern Methodist
9 University and later received his masters of business administration from Louisiana State
10 University; and

11 WHEREAS, he married the former Melanie Fuller in 2002, and they are the proud
12 parents of three sons: Russell Barrow Jr., William Fuller, and Henry Harmon; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Peacock's determination to represent the people of Caddo and
14 Bossier parishes was rewarded in 2011 when he successfully challenged a longtime,
15 well-funded, politically powerful elected official to become the senator representing Senate
16 District 37; and

17 WHEREAS, having made a commitment to act in accordance with his constituents'
18 expectations, Senator Peacock's first vote as senator was the lone "nay" in the election of

1 Senate President John Alario for the 2012 term – after which he asked President Alario for
2 a ride to New Orleans for that night's Bowl Championship Series game between Louisiana
3 State University and the University of Alabama; this was the beginning of a genuine
4 friendship between two statesmen, rooted in mutual respect; and

5 WHEREAS, his standing committee appointments in his first term to the labor and
6 industrial relations committee and the retirement committee were viewed by many as
7 "punishment"; however, Senator Peacock made known his keen interest in retirement before
8 taking his oath of office, and during the next four years he applied himself to mastering the
9 fine distinctions and complexities of Louisiana retirement law and policy, earning the gavel
10 as chairman of the Senate Committee on Retirement for the 2016 term; and

11 WHEREAS, while leading the retirement committee, he was also entrusted with
12 membership on the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay and the Senate standing
13 committees on labor and industrial relations; commerce, consumer protection, and
14 international affairs; and agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and rural development; and

15 WHEREAS, a perennial champion of financial health and actuarial soundness of the
16 retirement systems, Senator Peacock views discharging the obligations owed by the state and
17 other employers to our teachers, public safety officers, and state employees and their
18 families as not only a constitutional requirement, but a moral imperative; and

19 WHEREAS, balancing the needs and interests of the system members and
20 beneficiaries against those of the citizenry as a whole, Senator Peacock has sometimes been
21 at odds with the very groups of public servants, retirees, and beneficiaries he seeks to
22 protect; through each conflict he has remained true to his vision of prioritizing the debt
23 payments to fulfill his legislative duty; and

24 WHEREAS, a man who "walks his talk", Senator Peacock achieved his first term
25 goal of visiting all forty of the public schools in his district; he has read to a classroom each
26 year in celebration of Read Across America Week, participating by Zoom during the
27 COVID-19 pandemic; and he has worked to address the shortage of certified classroom
28 teachers by creating alternative pathways to the profession; and

29 WHEREAS, in this, his final term Senator Peacock chairs the Senate Committee on
30 Judiciary A, generally covering Louisiana civil law and specifically overseeing tort reform;

1 he remains an integral member of the retirement committee and is also assigned to the
2 pivotal committees on insurance and transportation, highways, and public works; and

3 WHEREAS, as a nonattorney chairman of a committee focused on highly technical
4 legal matters, Senator Peacock invested significant time and effort in understanding the
5 nuances of each issue in preparation for committee hearings; his hours of study ultimately
6 resulted in major advances in Louisiana civil law, for which he was named the inaugural
7 Champion of Legal Reform by the Louisiana Legal Reform Coalition; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Peacock has received numerous other awards and accolades
9 during his tenure in the upper chamber from such diverse groups as the North Louisiana
10 Crime Lab, the Louisiana Family Forum, the Louisiana State Troopers Association, Delta
11 Kappa Gamma, the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association, the YMCA, the American
12 Conservative Union Foundation, the National Federation of Independent Business, the South
13 Central U.S. Human Trafficking Conference, and the Childcare Association of Louisiana;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, in collaboration with his fellow members of the Northwest Louisiana
16 delegation, Senator Peacock skillfully navigated the capital outlay process to secure the state
17 funding necessary to construct a new Jimmie Davis Bridge and to complete Interstate 49;
18 he is unwavering in his assertion that both are critical to advancing the prosperity of
19 Shreveport-Bossier and the greater region; and

20 WHEREAS, Barksdale Air Force Base is an essential element of Senate District 37,
21 an ever-present physical reminder that freedom is never free; cognizant of the mobile nature
22 of life for America's military families, Senator Peacock has introduced licensure compact
23 legislation designed to ease the transition to and from military assignments in Louisiana for
24 service members and civilians holding professional credentials in nursing, emergency
25 medical services positions, medical professions, audiology and speech-language pathology,
26 and physical therapy; in 2023, he added occupational therapy to that list; and

27 WHEREAS, many civic organizations have benefitted from Senator Peacock's
28 involvement and interest, among them CHRISTUS Schumpert Health System Foundation,
29 the Louisiana Association for the Blind, the Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest
30 Louisiana, the Bossier City Lions Club, the National Rifle Association, and the Sons of the

1 American Revolution; and

2 WHEREAS, during his twelve years in the legislature, Senator Peacock has seen his
3 sons mature from little boys standing on his desk to witness his first swearing in and visiting
4 his office to see Feathers into young men bound for college and attaining voting age;
5 Russell, William, and Henry have watched their father model the attitudes and deeds of a
6 man seeking to follow the teachings of Christ, always willing to listen, learn, and, when
7 warranted, change his opinion; and

8 WHEREAS, sometimes good-naturedly referred to as a Boy Scout, Senator Peacock's
9 approach to the legislative process has been guided by his commitment to integrity, reading
10 every instrument and amendment and reviewing each fiscal and actuarial note, winning the
11 trust of his colleagues and constituents, being a careful steward of the people's resources, and
12 doing what is right, regardless of the consequences; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Peacock is a faithful friend, a loyal ally, and a dedicated servant
14 of the people, the quintessential rare bird who embodies his beliefs, making his principles
15 more important than his politics, focusing on his ideals of faith, family, and freedom, and
16 directing his actions and choices toward building a state we can all be proud to call home;
17 the Senate will not see his like again.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
19 hereby commends and expresses profound gratitude to Senator R. Barrow Peacock for his
20 twelve years of distinguished public service to the people of Louisiana and the residents of
21 Senate District 37 and records for posterity his many laudable achievements.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of Louisiana expresses enduring
23 admiration for Senator Peacock's steadfast adherence to the principles of faithfulness,
24 diligence, and integrity and extends to the Peacock family heartfelt wishes for success and
25 happiness in all their future endeavors.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
27 Honorable R. Barrow Peacock of Louisiana Senate District 37.

