

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY SENATORS CORTEZ, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, DUPLESSIS, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, STINE, TALBOT, TARVER, WHITE AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, having made a commitment to act in accordance with his constituents' expectations, Senator Peacock's first vote as senator was the lone "nay" in the election of Senate President John Alario for the 2012 term – after which he asked President Alario for a ride to New Orleans for that night's Bowl Championship Series game between Louisiana State University and the University of Alabama; this was the beginning of a genuine friendship between two statesmen, rooted in mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, his standing committee appointments in his first term to the labor and industrial relations committee and the retirement committee were viewed by many as "punishment"; however, Senator Peacock made known his keen interest in retirement before

taking his oath of office, and during the next four years he applied himself to mastering the fine distinctions and complexities of Louisiana retirement law and policy, earning the gavel as chairman of the Senate Committee on Retirement for the 2016 term; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in this, his final term Senator Peacock chairs the Senate Committee on Judiciary A, generally covering Louisiana civil law and specifically overseeing tort reform; he remains an integral member of the retirement committee and is also assigned to the pivotal committees on insurance and transportation, highways, and public works; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE