

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 122

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To recognize and commend Patrick Fontenot for his leadership, public service, and many years with Williams Progressive Life and Accident Insurance Company.

WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot was born to Dudley and Melba Fontenot on March 17, 1946, in Opelousas, Louisiana, where he has lived for the majority of his life; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot graduated from Holy Ghost School in Opelousas in 1963; he studied business administration and management at Southern University in Baton Rouge from 1963 to 1965, and studied business administration and management at Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana, from 1969 to 1970; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fontenot served in the United States Air Force from 1964 through 1968 and was honorably discharged with a rank of sergeant; and

WHEREAS, while living in New Orleans from 1968 through 1981, Mr. Fontenot had three children, Chris, Michelle, and Rachael, with his first wife, and in July 1977, he married Patricia Martin Fontenot, with whom he had two more children, Marcelle and Christine; and

WHEREAS, for twelve years while growing his family, Mr. Fontenot held several positions with Delta Airlines in New Orleans; serving in the areas of ramp, fuel, passenger, and control agent; and

WHEREAS, in April of 1981, Patrick returned to Opelousas with his family and began a career with Williams Progressive Life and Accident Insurance Company (Williams Progressive) as debit agent; and three years later in 1984, he was named district manager for Williams Progressive, followed by another promotion to executive vice president of the company in 1987; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Patrick's dedication to Williams Progressive and his extraordinary abilities propelled him to the positions he continues to hold twenty-four years later of chief executive officer and president of the company; and

WHEREAS, during his active business career in Opelousas, Patrick also found time to serve on numerous boards and commissions, including the Opelousas/St. Landry Chamber of Commerce, Acadiana Workforce Solutions Board of Directors, Opelousas Downtown Development Board, First Federal Savings and Loan of Opelousas, Teche Federal Savings Bank, and as the chairman of the board of United Bank and Trust Company of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Patrick has been appointed to several prestigious positions, including the Southern University Board of Supervisors from 1990 through 1997, serving as board chair in 1994 and 1995, and the Louisiana Insurers Conference board for ten years, serving two years as chairman; and

WHEREAS, during Patrick's lengthy career in public service, he has been appointed to numerous positions of consequence, many as a citizen working on government issues and including the following: the Louisiana Insurance Rating Commission; the Opelousas Rural Economic and Community Development Loan committee; the Acadiana Railroad Development District; the Solid Waste Recycling committee for St. Landry and Evangeline Parishes; the Opelousas Citizen Advisory committee; the Opelousas Industrial Inducement committee; and the Economic Development Task Force of the Louisiana chapter of the National Conference of Black Mayors; and

WHEREAS, Patrick led many of these endeavors, including having served as the president of Zydeco Housing, a nonprofit organization that provides decent, safe, and affordable homes for very low-to-moderate income families; as an interim member of the St. Landry Parish School Board; and as chairman of the Opelousas Parks and Recreation Commission baseball committee; and

WHEREAS, Patrick maintained membership in Phi Beta Sigma, Rotary International, and Frontiers International, and from the St. Landry Parish Democratic Party, he has been honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award and is a Hall of Fame inductee; and

WHEREAS, with decades of service to family, work, and community, Patrick Fontenot has worked tirelessly to improve his city and the entire Acadiana area and is worthy of recognition for his efforts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and commend Patrick Fontenot for his leadership, public service, and many years with Williams Progressive Life and Accident Insurance Company.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Patrick Fontenot.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE