

2023 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 177

BY SENATORS BARROW, FIELDS, FOIL, KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, MCMATH,  
MIZELL, POPE, PRICE, WHITE AND WOMACK

COMMENDATIONS. Commends WAFB television station upon the celebration of its  
seventieth anniversary of broadcasting.

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate WAFB television station upon the celebration of its  
seventieth anniversary of broadcasting.

WHEREAS, WAFB, the first television station in Baton Rouge, signed on April 19,  
1953, by broadcasting a parade and quickly became a strong information source when there  
was no live network services available; and

WHEREAS, WAFB-TV's tradition of excellence now broadcasts into nine parishes:  
Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena,  
Tangipahoa, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana; and

WHEREAS, many children entered into the WAFB-TV family through the Buckskin  
Bill Black segments where he taught them, "You're never completely dressed until you put  
on a smile," on his "Monday Morning March" programs; and

WHEREAS, the anchor team of George Sells and Donna Britt propelled WAFB-TV  
newscasts to some of the highest ratings in the entire nation; and

WHEREAS, Mike Graham, Chief Meteorologist Jay Grymes, alongside Diane  
Deaton and Dr. Steve Caparotta, helped pave the way for WAFB-TV weather dominance in  
south Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, like many regions around the United States, the audience relies on the

1 gold standard of weather radar networks provided by the National Weather Service  
2 (NEXRAD), WAFB-TV's "First Alert Radar Network" provides additional and exclusive  
3 radar technology in the WAFB-TV parishes; and

4 WHEREAS, Chief Meteorologist Jay Grymes describes the importance of the new  
5 system as: "The addition of this Doppler radar system to our technology tool chest will  
6 provide the Storm Team with never-before-available radar details for those areas that will  
7 enhance our ability to warn residents of threatening weather, especially the parishes of East  
8 and West Feliciana" ; and

9 WHEREAS, Sports Director Steve Schneider launched "Sportsline Friday Night" in  
10 1990 to bring viewers scores and highlights of high school football from across Louisiana;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Paul Gates and Chef John Folse's popular cooking segment "Stirrin' It  
13 Up" still airs today after starting many years ago; and

14 WHEREAS, WAFB-TV's "I-Team Investigates" has done an excellent job of  
15 exposing, informing, and revealing corruptions, health issues, and other problems faced by  
16 the residents of their viewing parishes; and

17 WHEREAS, "Sky 9 WAFB Camera Network" provides live coverage of events from  
18 the sky in various areas; and

19 WHEREAS, managing editor, Greg Meriwether, best known for his nightly "Street  
20 Beat" segments and for keeping it real with the viewers, remains popular today; and

21 WHEREAS, many WAFB-TV alumni have gone on to share their talents on larger  
22 and national stages; and

23 WHEREAS, WAFB-TV's continued goal is to serve the community with truth and  
24 facts, sponsoring countless community events, highlighting our heroes, and helping to raise  
25 millions to build Baton Rouge's first freestanding children's hospital; and

26 WHEREAS, WAFB-TV is proud to be called Louisiana's News Channel; and

27 WHEREAS, WAFB-TV continues to be a leader in news, sports, special  
28 programming, and weather, and has certainly merited its' viewers praise for seventy years  
29 of exceptional broadcasting.

30 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana

1 does hereby commend and congratulate WAFB television station upon the celebration of its  
2 seventieth anniversary of broadcasting and does hereby extend best wishes for continued  
3 success for many years.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
5 Joe Sciortino, General Manager of WAFB-TV.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michael Bell.

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	DIGEST	
SR 177 Original	2023 Regular Session	Barrow

Commends and congratulates WAFB-TV upon the celebration of its 70th anniversary of  
broadcasting.