

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 177

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate WAFB television station upon the celebration of its seventieth anniversary of broadcasting and does hereby extend best wishes for continued success for many years.

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE