

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 258

BY REPRESENTATIVES MARCELLE AND CARPENTER

A RESOLUTION

To commend Cory Stewart for his service to the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize Cory Stewart, founding chief communications officer of the Legislative Communications Office (LCO), and to commend him on twenty-two years of dedicated service to the Legislature of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Cory has served under four governors, five Senate presidents, and six House speakers; he has held numerous titles and positions ranging from student messenger to his recent, unprecedented role as chief communications officer of the LCO; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart began his career in 2001 as a high school senior working as a student messenger with the Louisiana House of Representatives; he has maintained the same professionalism that was evident in his early years as a student worker, and he has consistently operated with a work ethic that highlights his aspirations for personal excellence; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart left the messenger room in 2003 to become a student employee in the office of the clerk under then-Clerk of the House Alfred W. Speer; during the next legislative session, he was placed at the front desk as an endorsement clerk; and

WHEREAS, Cory began work as a student intern in the Office of Public Information in 2005 and helped update the office with new technologies, including graphic design programs, while also introducing social media to the legislature; later that year, he was hired as the assistant press secretary for Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco; and

WHEREAS, Cory graduated from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge with a bachelor of arts degree in mass communications and public relations, and at the request of Speaker Joe R. Salter, he returned to the capitol in 2006 to work as a public information specialist in the Public Information Office; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Mr. Stewart introduced the first-ever, in-house direct mail marketing service; with this service, he provided mailer design services to state representatives and produced a savings of \$1.2 million to the state's budget; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart was selected chair of the Legislative Information and Communications Staff Section of the National Conference of State Legislatures in 2012; he was the first African American to serve in this role; in the same year, he was also promoted to the position of deputy director of communications and led the rebranding effort of the office by vastly expanding its services to include web development and streaming oversight; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Mr. Stewart became the first African American to serve as the director of the House Communications Office; and

WHEREAS, Cory has also received numerous awards and accolades for his astonishing career and achievements; in 2014, he was awarded the National Legislative Staff Achievement Award, and in 2018, he was awarded the Communicator of the Year Award from the National Association of Government Communicators; and

WHEREAS, one of Cory's most recent achievements came in 2021, when he was asked to create, brand, and lead a new type of joint non-partisan office that offers communication services to both the House of Representatives and the Senate; he branded this new office the "Legislative Communications Office", or "LCO", and it represents the first communications office in the country that supports the entire state legislative branch; and

WHEREAS, behind Mr. Stewart's very capable leadership, the LCO created a new website for the Senate, implemented two new legislative mobile applications, revamped the marketing campaign for the Louisiana capitol's "Shop at the Top", redesigned the popular coloring and activity book, and expanded the digital footprint of the legislature through social media and web development; and

WHEREAS, Cory Stewart was an exemplary member of the legislative staff, and he is most deserving of the highest recognition for his inspiring work, infectious smile, angelic voice, and vibrant spirit.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Cory Stewart for his service to the Louisiana Legislature and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his endeavors as he begins a new phase in his career.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES