

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 57

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To commend Mark Shirley on the occasion of his retirement from Louisiana Sea Grant and the LSU AgCenter.

WHEREAS, Mark Shirley has dedicated forty-one years of exemplary service as a marine extension agent with Louisiana Sea Grant and the LSU AgCenter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shirley, a New Orleans native, earned his master's degree in wildlife management from Louisiana State University in 1979 and began his career with Louisiana Sea Grant and the LSU AgCenter in 1984, dedicating more than four decades to the advancement of Louisiana's coastal and marine communities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shirley has been instrumental in the creation and success of numerous educational and outreach programs, most notably Marsh Maneuvers, an immersive program established in 1989 that has inspired thousands of high school students to pursue careers in science and coastal ecology; his unwavering dedication to youth education, hands-on learning, and mentorship has left a lasting legacy that spans generations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shirley has made significant contributions to the growth and resilience of Louisiana's aquatic farming industry through his expertise in aquaculture, particularly in crawfish and alligator production, and through his role in identifying and responding to critical industry challenges; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shirley has represented Louisiana with distinction, both nationally and internationally, promoting sustainable practices and economic development within the state's fisheries and wildlife industries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shirley has demonstrated consistent leadership and deep commitment to community engagement through his tireless service as secretary of the Louisiana Alligator Farmers and Ranchers Association for over thirty years and as a trusted advisor to shrimpers, farmers, homeowners, and industry leaders; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shirley has earned numerous prestigious accolades, including the Meritorious Public Service Award from the U.S. Coast Guard, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's Lifetime Achievement Award, and LSU's School of Renewable Natural Resources Alumnus of the Year, among many others; and

WHEREAS, Mark Shirley is an exemplar of the spirit of public service; his calm demeanor, deep institutional knowledge, and genuine ability to connect with people have made him a respected figure among peers, colleagues, and communities across Louisiana, and he has created a lasting impact on coastal conservation, marine industries, and environmental education.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Mark Shirley on the occasion of his retirement from Louisiana Sea Grant and the LSU AgCenter; does hereby express enduring appreciation for his dedication, service, and leadership; and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he enjoy a fulfilling retirement filled with time spent with family, travel, and the satisfaction of a career that has enriched lives, protected resources, and built a legacy of stewardship and learning.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES