

2025 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 69

BY SENATOR HENRY

COMMENDATIONS. To commend the Honorable Cleo Fields for his exemplary service to the state of Louisiana during his many years at the Legislature of Louisiana and to congratulate him on his election to the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Honorable Cleo Fields for his exemplary service to the state of Louisiana  
3 during his many years at the Legislature of Louisiana and to congratulate him on his  
4 election to the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

5 WHEREAS, Cleo Fields, a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was born on  
6 November 22, 1962, and rose from humble beginnings to become a prominent figure in  
7 Louisiana and national politics; and

8 WHEREAS, Cleo Fields experienced the tragic loss of his father at the age of four  
9 and was raised by his mother, Alice Fields, who supported ten children by working tirelessly  
10 as a maid and laundress, and instilling in him the values of perseverance, hard work, and  
11 service; and

12 WHEREAS, a proud graduate of McKinley High School in 1980, Cleo Fields earned  
13 a Bachelor of Art degree in Mass Communications from Southern University and A&M  
14 College in 1984, and distinguished himself by obtaining his Juris Doctorate in 1987 from the  
15 Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge; and

16 WHEREAS, at the age of twenty-four, he achieved an extraordinary political  
17 milestone by being elected as a state senator, thereby establishing an unprecedented record  
18 as the youngest individual ever elected to the Louisiana State Senate in the state's history,

1 and concurrently emerging as the youngest legislator in the entire nation at the time; and

2 WHEREAS, during his early years in the legislature, Senator Cleo Fields focused on  
3 key issues such as education, drug prevention, minority job creation, and environmental  
4 protection; establishing himself as a champion for the underrepresented; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1992, at age 29, he was elected to the 103rd United States Congress  
6 House of Representatives by the constituents of Louisiana's 4th Congressional District,  
7 securing over 70% of the vote in a district stretching across a geographical jurisdiction from  
8 Shreveport, Louisiana, to the capital of Baton Rouge; and

9 WHEREAS, his legislative efficacy was further substantiated by his remarkable  
10 congressional achievement of authoring and successfully enacting more than thirty  
11 substantive and consequential pieces of federal legislation, demonstrating his political  
12 acumen and legislative proficiency; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1993, this distinguished legislator, driven by his steadfast  
14 commitment to empowering and inspiring elementary and secondary school-aged learners,  
15 pioneered the Congressional Classroom, the first of its kind in the country, designed to  
16 cultivate essential leadership skills and bolster self-esteem, all while fostering a deep  
17 understanding of governmental processes; the program evolved into the esteemed Louisiana  
18 Leadership Institute; and

19 WHEREAS, his commitment to youth development through the Louisiana  
20 Leadership Institute has impacted thousands of lives through education, arts, culture, and  
21 mentorship, making him a transformative force in Louisiana's civic and educational  
22 landscape; and

23 WHEREAS, in 1995, he etched an indelible historical milestone by courageously  
24 mounting a gubernatorial campaign for Louisiana, and becoming the first African American  
25 candidate to advance to a runoff election since the Reconstruction era; and

26 WHEREAS, after his tenure in the United States Congress House of Representatives,  
27 Cleo Fields resumed service in the Louisiana State Senate in 1997 and served multiple terms,  
28 and in 2019, became the first person in Louisiana history to return to the senate for a third  
29 time; and

30 WHEREAS, throughout his decades of service, Senator Fields held numerous

1 leadership roles in the Louisiana Senate including Chair of the Senate Committee on  
2 Education, Chair of the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs, Chair of the  
3 Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, and Vice Chair of the Judiciary A  
4 Committee; and

5 WHEREAS, he served as a member on the Senate Committee on Commerce,  
6 Consumer Protection and International Affairs, once; Senate Committee on Education, three  
7 times; Senate Committee on Finance, twice; Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, once;  
8 Senate Committee on Judiciary A, six times; Senate Committee on Judiciary C, once; Senate  
9 Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, twice; Senate Committee on Local and  
10 Municipal Affairs, three times; Senate Committee on Retirement, twice; and Senate  
11 Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, four times; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Fields served on the Senate Select Committee on Tax  
13 Structures; the Senate Select Committee on Disaster Planning, Crisis Management, Recovery  
14 and Long-Term Revitalization; the Senate Select Committee on State Police Oversight; and  
15 the Senate Select Committee on Homeland Security, twice; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Fields also served as a member of the Legislative Budgetary  
17 Control Council, twice; the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay; and the Joint  
18 Legislative Committee on the Budget; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Fields' enduring commitment to service, justice, and  
20 empowerment stands as a testament to his remarkable legacy and the positive change one  
21 individual can bring to their community and state; and

22 WHEREAS, Cleo Fields is the devoted husband of Debra Fields; the loving father  
23 of their sons, Brandon and Christopher; and a longtime member of Mount Pilgrim  
24 Missionary Baptist Church.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
26 does hereby commend the Honorable Cleo Fields for his exemplary service to the state of  
27 Louisiana during his many years at the Legislature of Louisiana and to congratulate him on  
28 his election to the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
30 Honorable Cleo Fields.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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SR 69 Original

DIGEST  
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Henry

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