

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 79

BY SENATOR LONG AND REPRESENTATIVES BROWN, COX AND HOWARD

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Natchitoches Fire Chief Dennie C. Boyt upon his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the Legislature of Louisiana and the citizens of Louisiana have learned of the much deserved retirement of Natchitoches Fire Chief Dennie Boyt; and

WHEREAS, Dennie Boyt was born in Natchitoches, Louisiana, on January 26, 1952, and is a lifelong native of Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he is a 1970 graduate of Natchitoches High School, attended Community College of the Air Force, Louisiana State University-Eunice, and Northwestern State University; and

WHEREAS, on February 15, 1974, Chief Boyt began his career at the Natchitoches Fire Department and proceeded to work for the department for the next four decades, serving in every rank from firefighter to fire chief; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2003, Chief Boyt was named fire chief of the Natchitoches Fire Department and served in that capacity until his retirement on May 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, one of the priorities of Chief Boyt during his leadership was the continued professional development of the department's staff; and

WHEREAS, to that end, the department entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Louisiana Technical College (LTC) for the location of the Natchitoches Fire Department Training Center to be at LTC's Natchitoches Campus; and

WHEREAS, the Natchitoches Fire Department Training Center offers a curriculum of firefighting and emergency medical technician and provides training for the employees of the Natchitoches Fire Department as well as personnel from other fire departments; and

WHEREAS, with the appropriate training readily available, the department initiated a comprehensive International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAAC) firefighter certification program that mandated each member of the department be certified equivalent to his rank; and

WHEREAS, Chief Boyt realized that to truly be successful, the department would also need investments to be made in technology and equipment; and

WHEREAS, Chief Boyt wrote proposals for numerous grants and the resulting funding was used to renovate the Central Fire Station as well as purchase updated and improved firefighting equipment including: a 100-foot aerial apparatus, a rescue vehicle, three command vehicles, self-contained breathing apparatus, air compressor/cascade system, 700 MHZ radios, urban search and rescue equipment for confined spaces, vehicle extrication equipment, thermal imaging cameras, and three new fire engines, and the replacement of all firefighter turnout gear; and

WHEREAS, under Chief Boyt's leadership, the efforts made to improve the training of personnel and the technology and equipment available resulted in a significant increase in the department's Public Protection Classification (PPC) which measures a community's ability to suppress fires, from a Class 3/4 to a Class 2 classification, which is a very impressive improvement in the PPC that has a positive impact on the availability and price of property insurance within the jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Chief Boyt has stated that it was his goal for the department to be considered progressive and on the leading edge of fire service; and

WHEREAS, Chief Boyt has met and exceeded his goals for the department and can enter his retirement knowing he is leaving a well-trained, well-equipped, and professional department; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his civilian life, Chief Boyt was also a distinguished member of the United States Air Force Reserve from 1971 to 2003, serving in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom and retiring from his service as a senior master sergeant; and

WHEREAS, after all of his professional accomplishments, Dennie Boyt truly deserves to spend the rest of his days traveling with the love of his life Joyce, spending precious time with his children Derek, Angela, Zack, Rick, Rachel, and Aimee, and spoiling his eleven cherished grandchildren.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Natchitoches Fire Chief Dennie Boyt on his numerous

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accomplishments and achievements as fire chief and on his much deserved retirement from the Natchitoches Fire Department and wishes him success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dennie Boyt.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES