

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 133

BY SENATOR LONG

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Robert "Bob" Harper upon his much deserved retirement after forty-two years of service in state government.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the citizens and the Senate of Louisiana have learned of the much deserved retirement of Bob Harper; and

WHEREAS, Bob received his baccalaureate degree in political science from Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, he began his career in state government on September 1, 1970, at the State Library and then took a position as senior budget analyst at the Division of Administration, where he worked for the office of planning and budget and participated in the legislative appropriations cycles for twenty consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, he was initially appointed to the position of undersecretary of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by Governor Edwin Edwards, and was subsequently reappointed to the position by governors Mike Foster, Kathleen Blanco, and Bobby Jindal, serving under both Democrats and Republicans, and confirmed six times by the Louisiana Senate; and

WHEREAS, he will be remembered as the longest serving undersecretary in the history of the cabinet-form of state government in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his service with excellence and honor, he was appointed as secretary of the Department of Natural Resources by Governor Jindal from June to November 2010; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as secretary Louisiana faced one of the worst natural disasters in its history, with the explosion and sinking of the Deep Water Horizon drilling rig under contract to British Petroleum America, and the resulting massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the disaster placed Secretary Harper, in the forefront of the Louisiana effort, working closely with all levels of government in crafting and implementing a unified response to that disaster embodying mitigation and ultimate relief, while maintaining ordinary duties incumbent upon him; and

WHEREAS, he also served faithfully and tirelessly as undersecretary with the administrations during response and recovery efforts following hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Gustav, all of which had major impacts on the state, and worked to ensure that adequate volunteers staffed emergency operation centers and emergency shelters; and

WHEREAS, he served as an ex officio and often designee member of the State Mineral and Energy Board, he has served on the Supervisory Committee of La Capitol Federal Credit Union since 1996, and is currently serving as their vice chairman; and

WHEREAS, his management abilities and understanding of fiscal responsibility has guided the Department of Natural Resources through recurring budget crisis during troubled economic times, with minimal impact on services provided and department personnel; and

WHEREAS, after a long and distinguished career, Mr. Harper will finally be able to spend time with the loves of his life, his wife Sherry Penney Harper and their dog Wilson.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Robert "Bob" Harper on forty-two years of service in state government, and upon his much deserved retirement, and wishes him much success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Robert "Bob" Harper.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE