

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY REPRESENTATIVES BROADWATER, EDWARDS, PUGH, AND SIMON

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Gordon Burgess for his service to Tangipahoa Parish, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize and record the accomplishments and contributions of Gordon Burgess and
3 commend him for his service to Tangipahoa Parish, the state of Louisiana, and the
4 United States of America.

5 WHEREAS, in 1986, Gordon Burgess entered public service as Tangipahoa Parish
6 president; he is the only president Tangipahoa Parish has had, and he has been in office for
7 nearly thirty years; and

8 WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, Mr. Burgess has consistently explored new ways
9 to improve the welfare of the citizens of Tangipahoa Parish and has maintained their trust
10 over the years; and

11 WHEREAS, he established the "Pay As You Go" plan to help relieve the parish from
12 debt and become a thriving parish; under Mr. Burgess's leadership, the parish was able to
13 retire its debt and move forward to build countless major infrastructure improvements which
14 included eight hundred twelve miles of overlay roads and two hundred one miles of chip seal
15 course; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Burgess has long been known as the face of Tangipahoa Parish and
17 a huge contributor to steady progress in the parish; and

18 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the creation of the multipurpose Florida Parishes
19 Arena in Amite; he became chairman of the Louisiana Racing Commission, and in 1982 the
20 commission led the fight to secure legislative funding for a state police investigative unit for
21 horse racing; and

1 WHEREAS, as chairman of the Louisiana Racing Commission, Mr. Burgess helped
2 restore the credibility of horse racing in Louisiana; and

3 WHEREAS, prior to his election, in 1986, as parish president for Tangipahoa Parish,
4 Mr. Burgess worked to secure funding for the parish's current jail; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Burgess's public service contributions extend beyond Tangipahoa
6 Parish to state and federal levels; his experience and vision have led to appointments on the
7 Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry and the Police Jury Association of Louisiana
8 executive board; he served as vice president of the Zachary Taylor Parkway Association and
9 was a member of the Louisiana Federal Property Advisory Board, Parishes Against Coastal
10 Erosion, the Amite Rotary Club, the Hammond Chamber of Commerce, the Ponchatoula and
11 Amite Area Chambers, and the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association; and

12 WHEREAS, throughout his tenure as president of Tangipahoa Parish, Mr. Burgess
13 has remained loyal, compassionate, and a fighter for his family, friends, and constituents;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, he is a member of the First Baptist Church in Independence where he
16 serves as a deacon; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Burgess is the loving husband of Margaret Burgess, father of Wade
18 Burgess, and grandfather of Alex Burgess; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Burgess attended Southern Arkansas University before serving two
20 years in the Nike Missile Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battery of the United States Army, as well
21 as four years of active reserve status in the National Guard; and

22 WHEREAS, as a well-respected leader and after eight terms as Tangipahoa Parish
23 president, Mr. Burgess leaves a legacy of exemplary public service, effective leadership, and
24 tremendous achievement.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
26 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Gordon Burgess for nearly thirty years of
27 service to the citizens of Tangipahoa Parish as parish president and expresses its sincerest
28 appreciation for his dedication and leadership during his service to the state of Louisiana and
29 the United States of America.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
2 to Gordon Burgess.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

HR 37 Original

2015 Regular Session

Broadwater

Commends Gordon Burgess upon his retirement as Tangipahoa Parish president and recognizes his service and contributions to the state of Louisiana and the United States of America.