

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY SENATOR ERDEY AND REPRESENTATIVE POPE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Mayor James Durbin on his retirement following twelve years as the mayor of Denham Springs, Louisiana, and on his significant contributions to the growth and development of the city.

WHEREAS, James Durbin served his community as a member of the Denham Springs City Council, beginning with his election in 1989, and as the mayor of Denham Springs, beginning with his election in 2002, serving three consecutive terms and retiring at the end of his term at midnight on December 31, 2014, having chosen not to seek reelection to a fourth term in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Durbin was born in 1947 to Erlo and Mildred Durbin, graduated from Denham Springs High School in 1965, and continued his academic studies at Louisiana State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Economics; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Durbin received his Juris Doctor degree from Loyola School of Law and began practice as an attorney in Denham Springs in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Durbin has been married to Maurice Cockerham for thirty-two years and the couple has raised two children, Bradley and Berkley, both of whom are graduates of Louisiana State University and Tulane Law School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Durbin began serving as mayor of Denham Springs in 2003, following his twelve years of service as a member of the city council and, considering himself to be a "hands-on" mayor and administrator, he can, justifiably, be proud of the city's residential growth, commercial expansion, infrastructure improvements, and quality-of-life advancements that have taken place during his time as mayor; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Durbin led the city of Denham Springs, in cooperation with federal and state funding sources, to complete important infrastructure projects, including the building of an award-winning sewer treatment facility, the development of two new water wells for the city, the expansion and improvement of both the water system and the sewer system, and he was instrumental in obtaining federal funding for sidewalk enhancement and lighting in the Historic Preservation District of the city; and

WHEREAS, with James Durbin as mayor, Denham Springs has benefitted from

numerous important highway and road improvement projects, including the Range Avenue Corridor Bypass; the South Range Avenue/Interstate 12 project, which provided upgraded access to the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World project; and the widening and enhancement of Florida Boulevard from the Livingston Parish line to River Road, including the elevated Amite River Bridge; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Durbin's administration managed to operate the city and provide services during an unprecedented national recession while amassing a half-million dollar surplus, and the city has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, a recognition conferred by the Government Financial Officers Association of the United States and Canada for thirteen consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, under the proactive leadership of Mayor Durbin, numerous economic development projects were undertaken with many completed and continuing additional projects, including development of a new "hotel row" on Rushing Road, bond funding and a new sewerage district that opened new areas for both residential and commercial development, development of Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World and a major shopping center complex, new hotels, and Spring Park Plaza shopping center expansion with numerous retail outlets involved; and

WHEREAS, with his return to private life, James Durbin's involvement in numerous civic and quality-of-life endeavors will continue to benefit the citizens of Denham Springs and enrich their lives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Mayor James Durbin on his retirement following twelve years as the mayor of Denham Springs, Louisiana, and on his significant contributions to the growth and development of that city.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mayor James Durbin of Denham Springs, Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES