

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY REPRESENTATIVES BROADWATER, EDWARDS, PUGH, AND SIMON

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES