

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 106

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend CenturyLink, Inc. and its employees for eighty-five years of service to the citizens of Louisiana and customers across our nation and for following an exemplary corporate philosophy.

WHEREAS, in 1930, William Clarke and Marie Williams purchased the Oak Ridge Telephone Company with its seventy-five subscribers in rural Morehouse Parish for five hundred dollars from F. E. Hogan Sr.; and

WHEREAS, the switchboard was located in the Williams' front parlor so the family could man the switchboard twenty-four hours a day, with the only exception being on Sundays between the hours of ten o'clock in the morning and three o'clock in the afternoon when the office was closed for church and dinner; and

WHEREAS, the Williams' instilled in their son, Clarke McRae Williams, a tireless work ethic and Christian values as demonstrated by his delivering telephone bills by hand at the age of eight and the switchboard being closed on Sundays; and

WHEREAS, upon his return from World War II in 1946, where he served as a flight engineer in the United States Air Force, Clarke McRae Williams married Mary Kathryn Lee and his parents gave the newlyweds the company as a wedding gift; and

WHEREAS, from 1946 until the 1970's, Oak Ridge Telephone Company transformed into Central Telephone and Electronics serving three states and ten thousand access lines, then renamed Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. in 1971, and on October 24, 1973, shares of Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. (Century) common stock traded on the New York Stock Exchange for the first time under the symbol CTL; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, Century obtained the Federal Communications Commission's approval to operate cellular mobile telephone systems in three areas in

Michigan; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990s, Century demonstrated enormous growth with the following acquisitions and milestones: acquired Central Telephone Company of Ohio which served more than 65,000 access lines and this acquisition increased Century's access line by a total of twenty percent; surpassed the half million-customer mark in its local exchange operations and the one hundred thousand-customer mark in its long distance operations; its largest acquisition at that time with the purchase of Pacific Telecom, Inc. gaining about 660,000 telephone access lines in twelve states and doubling its size; acquired Century Protection Systems, providing full-service security systems to residential, commercial and industrial customers in northeastern Louisiana; added about 89,000 access lines with the purchase of Ameritech's telephone and directory publishing operations in nineteen exchanges in twenty-one northern and central Wisconsin communities; admitted to the Standard & Poor's (S&P) 500 Index; and in 1999, changed its company's name to CenturyTel, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, in the 2000's, CenturyTel became the second largest provider in Wisconsin with the purchase of approximately 133,000 additional lines in seventy-seven exchanges; successfully defeated a hostile take-over attempt by Alltel, Inc.; expanded operations to twenty-two states with the acquisition of approximately 300,000 Verizon access lines in Alabama and approximately 354,000 Verizon lines in Missouri, bringing the total access lines served nationwide to nearly 2.5 million; ranked by *Business Week* as sixteenth among the top one hundred information technology companies and ahead of all other U.S.-based telecommunication companies; completed its acquisition of fiber networks in sixteen markets that added key markets to its footprint across Alabama, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin; expanded operations in Alabama and Illinois and into Georgia and North Carolina with the acquisition of approximately 165,000 access lines and a 2,400-mile-long fiber network; acquired Embarq Corporation; began operating under the name CenturyLink; and with the Embarq acquisition, CenturyLink was positioned as the largest independent telecommunications provider and the fourth largest telecommunications provider, based on access lines, in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the founder and chairman of the board, Clarke M. Williams,

died following a lengthy illness and Glen F. Post III was elected as the new chairman of the board; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, CenturyLink acquired Qwest Communications and Savvis, Inc., and with these two acquisitions became a national, industry-leading communications company providing broadband, voice, and wireless services to consumers and businesses across the country; advanced entertainment services under the CenturyLink Prism TV and DIRECTV brands; and data, voice, and managed services to businesses, government and wholesale customers in local, national, and select international markets through its high-quality advanced fiber optic network and multiple data centers; and with the acquisition of Qwest, CenturyLink became the third largest telecommunications provider, based on access lines, in the United States; and

WHEREAS, between 2013 and 2015, CenturyLink has acquired AppFog, Inc. and Tier 3, Inc. and Orchestrate to enhance its cloud services; DataGardens to strengthen its disaster recovery options; and with the acquisition of Cognilytics, CenturyLink has been transformed into an integrated provider of advanced IP-enabled network, cloud, hosting, and IT services; and

WHEREAS, throughout the growth and expansion of CenturyLink, the company was guided by the principles of its founder, Clarke M. Williams, including "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"; and

WHEREAS, its current president and chief executive officer Glen F. Post III says that "Mr. Williams' life still teaches me two things: Be kind and true in all dealings, and anyone can learn to succeed", and Mr. Williams was often described as the opposite of a cutthroat negotiator, and would only make acquisitions by insisting to sellers, "If this deal isn't good for you, I don't want to do it"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams' business principles are continued in CenturyLink's "Unifying Principles" of fairness, honesty and integrity, commitment to excellence, positive attitude, respect, faith and perseverance that are the foundation for how its employees interact with its customers and other employees; and

WHEREAS, CenturyLink, Inc. deserves to be recognized for its corporate philosophy and dedication to the communities and countries where it does business.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend CenturyLink, Inc. and its employees for eighty-five years of service to the citizens of Louisiana and customers across our nation and for following an exemplary corporate philosophy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Glen F. Post III, Chief Executive Officer and President of CenturyLink, Inc. and to the family of Clarke McRae Williams.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES