

2015 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 154

BY SENATOR MURRAY

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Dr. Norman Francis on his service as president of Xavier University of Louisiana.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Dr. Norman Francis on his many years of outstanding service and dedication  
3 to Xavier University of Louisiana.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Norman Francis was born on March 20, 1931, in Lafayette,  
5 Louisiana, the son of poor parents, neither of whom finished high school; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Francis started out in life as poor and underprivileged, but, as he  
7 said later, he did not know that he was poor and underprivileged; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Francis is the president of Xavier University of Louisiana, a position  
9 he has held since 1968; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Francis accepted the presidency at Xavier University on the very  
11 day that the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, in  
12 1968; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Francis has been Xavier University's second longest-tenured current  
14 leader of an American college or university and the only lay president of Xavier University;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Francis was named among the one hundred most effective college  
17 presidents in a poll published in the Chronicle of Higher Education; and

18 WHEREAS, he also has served as the president of the American Association of

1 Higher Education and the United Negro Fund; and

2 WHEREAS, he has been awarded honorary degrees by thirty-five colleges and  
3 universities and was invested as a Knight of Malta in 1991; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Francis has served as chairman of the board of directors of the  
5 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and Educational Testing Service, the Carnegie  
6 Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and the Southern Education Foundation; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Francis is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences,  
8 a member of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, the National Advisory  
9 Research Council of the United States Department of Health and Human Resources, and the  
10 National Assessment of Higher Education Program; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Francis was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in  
12 December 2006; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Francis has provided Xavier University of Louisiana with dedicated  
14 service, resulting in the educational growth and development of many Louisiana students;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, he guided Xavier University's growth in both size and dimension during  
17 his tenure as president; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Francis has not only dedicated his life to shaping and bettering the  
19 lives of thousands of college students, but has also touched the lives of those who have been  
20 privileged to learn from, work with, and know him; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Francis announced his plan to retire from his post as Xavier  
22 University's president in June 2015 after serving the university in this capacity for 47 years.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
24 does hereby commend Dr. Norman Francis on his many years of service as president of  
25 Xavier University of Louisiana.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr.  
27 Norman Francis.

